



DECEMBER 1986

ISSUE NO. 14

Talking With Dave Prowse

DP - Dave Prowse
MS - Michael Stubbington
SD - Shaun Dawkins

MS: How did you get the part of Darth Vader in the STAR WARS films?

DP: I was simply telephoned by my agent who asked me to go for an interview with George Lucas in London. I went to see him around Christmas 1975 and he told me he was doing a film called STAR WARS. He offered me two parts. One was a hairy gorilla and the other the big villain of the film named Darth Vader. I did not really fancy three months in a gorilla suit and so chose the villain. I think that he had seen some of my previous work like CLOCKWORK ORANGE which persuaded him to see me.

MS: When you were a small child, did you have any heroes?

DP: I did love Roy Rogers of the cowboy films. Westerns were all the rage for kids in those days and there were people like Hopalong Cassidy and Gene Autry. I also liked Errol Flynn, who did all the swashbuckling films as well as Tyrone Power who was in THE MARK OF ZORRO. Kirk Douglas is another person I admired. He did a film called CHAMPIONS which was about boxing. I think I became interested in fitness because of that film.

MS: I presume that you would have liked to do the Superman films?

DP: I would have dearly liked to, yes. I tried very, very hard to get the part for myself but the producers kept turning me down because they said I was English and they had to have an American. In the finish, I was given the task of training Chris Reeve and in six weeks I put two stones of muscle on him.

MS: How has each of the three STAR WARS films differed for you?

DP: They differ in as much as you have three different directors who each have a different approach to a film. Also, with each film, people have tended to become more and more paranoid about secrecy. Because of this, while filming you develop a more detached attitude. I felt that with STAR

WARS everybody was involved in the film. For THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, they began to get very secretive and, on the third one, it got worse still. All the cast were only given their pages of the script and were not told how they fitted into the whole story. Perhaps, in the long run, by maintaining the mystery, it will prove better for us anyway because the public are eager to see the films.

I must say that of the three films, the middle one was the most enjoyable for me. I think that this was primarily because my part developed a lot more from the first one. Also, I had a very interesting relationship with Irvin Kershner, the director.

MS: Would you have liked to do the voice of Darth Vader?

DP: I actually did the voice when we were filming the scenes so that the others could react to me. I kept asking George Lucas what we were going to do about the voice because, although the actors were able to hear me, it was not too good for sound reproduction purposes in the cinemas. George later said that they would probably re-record it in the studios during the film's post production work. I had assumed that my voice would be used. At the last moment, I learned that James Earl Jones had done the voice in America.

Michael Stubbington

and

Shaun Dawkins

MS: What do you like to do in your spare time?
DP: I do not really have that much spare time to myself. I have been very fortunate in turning what was my hobby, body building, into a career. I now have two gyms.

MS: Do you have any major ambitions?

DP: There are all sorts of things that I would like to do; I would like to be James Bond, for instance. Really, it would be great to play a happy father in a cornflakes advertisement. Because of my size, I am stamped as a villain.

MS: Are you grateful for the role of Darth Vader?

DP: I am very grateful. It has been seven tremendous years since Darth Vader was first seen. It has done me and my career an enormous amount of good, given publicity and such like.

The other major thing that my role as Darth Vader has done is to have a beneficial effect on our road safety campaign. All the children know that the Green Cross Code man is Darth Vader, which makes my talks that much more interesting for them.

SD: How did you get the role as the Green Cross Code man?

DP: It happened about the same time as STAR WARS. I was contacted by an agency asking if I could go out and have some photographs taken. I did so on the freezing cold streets of Clapham in January, 1976. The photographs then went to the Ministry of Transport. They decided that these were good and liked the idea, perhaps making an effective campaign.

I was actually filming STAR WARS at the time it all came through. They asked if there was any chance of getting a week off to film the commercials which I did. Overall, I have now visited about three hundred schools, speaking to about 500 children at a time.

SD: With Sir Alec Guinness for STAR WARS and Mark Hamill in THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, how long did it take to choreograph the lightsabre duels?

DP: On STAR WARS, the fight was choreographed as we were filming. Sir Alec and I would go off and practice every so often.

For the big duel near the end of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, I had to train with a stuntman, Peter Diamond, over a period of some three months for 2 or 3 days a week. He was my coach for this sequence.

MS: How long does the Darth Vader costume take to put on?

DP: It takes about ten minutes. I had a dresser who helped put on the fifteen different pieces that make up the costume. It was very hot once I was inside. The biggest problem was that heat rises from the body, came up inside the mask and misted up the eye pieces. The mask then had to be taken off the wipe them clear.

MS: Do you get much fan mail?

DP: I get a lot of letters when the films are showing. The letters come 95% from America and the rest from all around the world. Everybody that writes gets a photograph. I love receiving fan mail. I was doing a calculation recently, I must have signed about 75,000 of those photographs!

MS: What are your favorite films?

DP: My all-time favorite film is ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST. I saw GANDHI and enjoyed that. While I was in America, I saw TOOTSIE and E.T. I do like musicals, as well. Two of my favorites are CAROUSEL and CARMEN JONES.

MS: What is your favorite scene from STAR WARS?

DP: I think this must be Darth Vader's entrance

into the rebel ship at the start, which is the first time we see him. I thought that established from the start that Darth Vader was the big villain of the movie.

SD: When I have been in a London cinema, Darth Vader, more than any other character, is the one who excites the audience into friendly hisses and boos. Why do you think this is?

DP: The brilliance of the acting, I would say! To be serious, I think that everybody loves a good villain. Darth Vader must be the most famous bad-die ever; he is the ultimate villain. I feel that the other thing with Vader is that he never does anything overtly violent. It is all what I call fantasy violence, like he points at you and you start to choke. There is no blood and guts. He also has a terrific mystery about him.

SD: What was the very first film that you appeared in?

DP: It was CASINO ROYALE, in which I played a Frankenstein monster.

SD: Was acting a career that you always wished to pursue?

DP: I had never thought about acting, at all. I left school not really knowing what I wanted. I then went into accountancy which I did not enjoy very much, at all. I became a bouncer, did export sales, became a lifeguard, and all sorts of other things. Acting just came out of the blue.

SD: When you were working on the Frankenstein films, how long did it take to be made up?

DP: For FRANKENSTEIN and THE MONSTER FROM HELL, it took no time at all because the costume was built up on a wetsuit and the face was a mask. The previous films I did, THE HORROR OF FRANKENSTEIN, took about two and a half hours to be made up for.

SD: Are horror films a genre that you enjoy as entertainment?

DP: I am not a great lover of horror films. I enjoy doing them, but, if there was a Hammer double bill on down the road, it would be hell's own job to get me in there to see it.

SD: What are the differences between working in television and a film such as RETURN OF THE JEDI?

DP: For television, you have to know your part before you start work and you may rehearse for about three weeks before filming. This makes the actual recording very quick. With a film, what I do is virtually learn the part over night, so that it is fresh in my mind. The other thing with a film is the time you spend actually shooting. A film like RETURN OF THE JEDI may take eight months to actually shoot. I did a three episode program for the BBC called THE ROSE MEDALLION which was filmed in about three weeks.

SD: How did you find the directing techniques of George Lucas, Irvin Kershner and, most recently, Richard Marquand, differed?

DP: I think George is the sort of director for whom the effects and technical side is the main thing and the actors are really there to complement the effects. Irvin was different since he got a lot more out of the relationships between us. He is an actor's director.

SD: Working on the STAR WARS films does take quite a long time. When it all ends, and it now looks as though it has ended forever, do you feel very sad?

DP: I have enjoyed working on the films and you do feel sad now that it has all finished.

SD and MS: Dave Prowse, thank you very much indeed...

Happy New Year! The SW Fanzine Lending Library will begin operation Jan. 1, 1987. If you've been planning to participate in the library, here's the information you need to begin:

On the back side of this sheet is a list of what zines the library has to offer. Not all of the zines in the library are available to borrow. (If you know current addresses for any editors of the zines in the "not reached" column, we would appreciate hearing from you; if you personally know editors of zines in the "not heard from" column, let them know we're anxious to circulate their zines, but can't do so without their permission. Finally, if any of you editors have notified us differently than listed, let us know and we'll take our compiler to rigorous task!)

The guidelines for participating in the library are printed below. A SASE sent to the Library will return to you the forms and specific information (postage details, availability, waiting list time, etc.) you need to borrow one of these zines from the library. Remember, we're amateurs at this and really don't know how smoothly our operations will run. Please bear with us as we get started and SASE us with any questions you may have.

We hope to keep everyone informed of the progress of Library distribution and of our search for a proper scholastic home for the zines fandom has lavished time and affection on. Watch for future announcements regarding the SW Fanzine Lending Library in the various letterzines you receive this year!

Fannishly,

The First Terran Enclave

How to Use the SW Fanzine Lending Library

1. SW Fanzine Lending Library will bear the cost of maintenance, storage, photocopying and padded mailers.
2. User will pay for book rate-insured postage both ways, plus a \$1.00 users' fee. If a zine is lost, the user will pay replacement charges at the rate of 10 cents per side. Late returns will result in the assessment of a late penalty. Users' fees and penalty fees will be used to offset the administrative costs of materials and necessary correspondence.
3. Users will borrow a zine by sending a name request and a check for the sum of one-way postage, users' fee, and replacement fee. Only one zine may be borrowed at one time.
4. On receipt of a request we will deposit the check in a dedicated checking account and mail the zine to the borrower. Mailings will go out on the fifth and the twentieth of each month, with the deadlines for those mailings being the first and the fifteenth of the month, respectively. All dates will make reasonable allowance for holidays and Sundays.
5. If the requested zine is out with another borrower, the fan will be informed who has the zine, whether there is a waiting list, and how long we expect it to be before the zine comes back; their check will be returned, and their name will be added to the waiting list. When the zine is returned to the library, the next person on the waiting list will be notified and asked to send the appropriate funds if still interested in the zine. The zine will be held for that person's response.
6. Zines will be due one month and fifteen days from the date the zine was mailed out. Reasonable late fees will be charged on a sliding scale.
7. Upon return of a zine, the deposit will be returned to the borrower, less users' fee, one-way postage and other applicable charges or penalties.
8. To encourage returns, we will issue a periodic reminder list of late zines and the borrower of record to appropriate letterzines.
9. A user who loses three zines will be denied further use of the library.
10. No original copies will be removed from storage except by us and except for the purpose of making one photocopy for circulation.
11. An editor may ask us to withdraw a zine or zines from circulation at any time.
12. An editor may ask us to add a zine or zines to the collection at any time by sending us one copy of each zine to be added. Editors wishing to add their zines to the catalog for circulation must also send us written permission to circulate the zines as part of the library. Seconds and compilations are acceptable, as long as they will copy well. Unbound copies are preferred.

Turn the page for the zinelist!

★ 2330 Federal Ave, East / Seattle, WA 98102

As of December 1, 1986

Here are the zines we have permission to circulate

Alderaan #1 -13	Far Realms #1 - 4/5	Light Saber, The (club newsletter)	Pegasus #3, 5, 6
Comlink #1 - present	Flip of a Coin #4/5 - 8, 9	Vol. 1, #2, 5, 6, 9, 10 - 12	Rogue's Gallery #1, 3 - 16
Combining Forces #1, 2, 3	Force, The #1, 2	Vol. 2, #1, 3-6, 8-10, 11	Scoundrel #1
Contraband #1, 2, 3	Galaxy in Flames, A	Vol. 3, #3 - 7, 9, 10, 12	Signs of Wisdom
Cosmic Landscapes #4, 10	Grip #10, 15, 16, 18, 21, 24	Vol. 4, #1, 3 - 5	Shooting Star
Crossed Sabers [Millennium I] #1, 2, 3	Guardian #1 - 6	Vol. 5, #2 - 12	Skywalker #1 - 4, 6
Dark Interlude	Hoth or Bust	Vol. 6, #4, 6 - 10, 12, 13	Star Wars Bibliography, A
Datzine #22 - 38	Hyperspace #1 - 5/6	Vol. 7, #1 - 12	Storm
Docking Bay #1, 4	Imperium #1, 2	Vol. 8, #1 - 11	TrekIndex
Dragon's Hoard, The #1 - present	Jedi Riddle	Vol. 9, #2 - 6	Vol. 1, 1st, 2d, 3d Supl.
Dragon's Teeth	JediStarDarkFalconKnight	Masiform D #13, 15	Vol. X, 4th Supl.
Equal Space	Jundland Wastes #1 - 15/16	Mos Eisley Chronicle #1 - 3	Warped Space #28 - 52
Errantry #1, 2	Kessel Run #2, 3, 4	News of the Rebellion #10 - 11	Well of the Souls The #1 - 5
Esper!	Knight of Shadows	On the Mark	Whills, The #1
Evolution of a Rebel	Lighter Side of the Force, The #1, 2	Vol. 1, #1 - 4	Xenozine #1, 2
		Vol. 2, #1, 3	
		Vol. 3, #1, 3, 4	
		Vol. 4, #1, 2	

Zine editors will notify us when we can circulate these zines (once they're out of print)

Guardian #7	New Challenge, A	Skywalker #5	Tremor in the Force #3
Field Studies #2	Revenge of the Sith	Southern Enclave #1 - 15	

Here are the zines we DO NOT have permission to circulate

Carbonite Manuever	Landspeeder #2 - 21	Sons & Daughters of the Force (club newsletter)
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We can't classify these zines yet because

The post office returned the notification mailers sent to

Against the Sith #1 - 9	Falcon's Flight #1 - 4	Luminous Belings #1, 2, 3	Tauntaun express
Dark Lord, The (U.S.) #1 - 5	Fantasy Flight	Return, The	Twin Suns #1, 2, 3
Empire Review #1, 3, 4	Hydrospanner Zero	Showcase Presents	
	Lasergram #1 - 7	Spirit	

**We have not yet heard from,
nor have had our notification mailer returned by the PO from**

"A Long Time Ago, In a Galaxy"	Galactic Flight #1 - 4	Old Republic Reader, The #8, 9	SW Filksongs
'Noids 'n 'Droids #2	Gopher Zine, The #3	Pegasus, The	Star Journeys
Archeology 101 #1, 2	Illuminations	Vol. 2, 7 - 9,	Star Weres
Baselines #1 - 4	Jedi Journal #1, 3	Vol. 1, 9 - 10	Starwings #1, 2
Baystar	Jedi Quarterly #1, 2	Phoenix - The Magazine	Storms #2
Vol. 1 - 3	Jeremy Bullock Fan Club	#1, 2	Syndizine #2, 3
Vol. 2 - 1	Legends of Light #1, 2	Rebel Alliance #1, 2	Tatoolne Tribune
Best of Empire Star, The	Lost Jedis, The	Rec Room Rhymes #4	Thunderbolt
Dark Lord, The (Swedish)	Lucasfans #1, 2	Reluctant Rebel, The	Time Warp #4
Dec Wars	May the FORCE Be With You	Return to Star Wars	Timeframe #3 - 7
Enterprising Falcon	Millenium	Revenge of the Jedi	Trackless Void
Echo 7 #1	Moonbeam #1 - 4	Saren Wallwalker, Jr. Jedi	Visions #1
Facets #5 - 10	Mos Eisley Tribune #1, 2	Shadowstar #1 - 18	Voice of the Emperor
Fanfarling	Nerfherder's Companion	Shooting Star, The	Prequel, #4 - 7
Fortune and Glory	#1, 2	Space: Happy	

Note: This list includes only zines sent to the Official Star Wars Fan Club, or donated specifically to the SWzine Lending Library. Nonrepresented zines whose editors wish to participate may do so by sending written permission and a copy of their zine to the SWzine Lending Library.

REVIEWING THE FLEET



J. LOW 86

DIVINE INTERVENTION by Julia Ecklar. Air Craft Records, Dormont Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. (412) 341-0830. \$8.00 per tape. No cash. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Reviewed by Jeanine Hennig

If you don't like subsiding into rampant emotionalism, don't buy DIVINE INTERVENTION.

However, if you want to be moved, to laugh, to cry, and to totally transcend the everyday world, this tape is a MUST.

Perhaps calling this a review isn't correct--for a review has become known as a "criticism". And there are only two things I have to say critically about this tape. One is that, upon first hearing, the lead-in instrumentals got a bit long. Two is...

I can't remember a second one.

Ecklar begins with a filk I've heard on an umpteenth generation tape of a folksinging session--the one called "Ladyhawke!" and inspired by the movie of the same name. As I said above, on first hearing the "Overture", written by Michael Moricz, seemed a bit long--but that was because I had never heard it with the song before. On second hearing, it was just the thing to introduce one to the soaring of the hawk into the sun.

She follows up with two decidedly "fantasy" oriented songs: "Crimson and Crystal" and "Burnish Me Bright". The first was not written by her, but the second was and both are more than suited to her voice--which is stunning. The lady enjoys what she's doing, and she does it damn well. Both have an otherworld quality and, if not based on a written story, give the story so well that it will make any writer's fingers itch to write the story for these songs. On second thought, how could one second-guess an act like this?

"Survivor's Song" is a chilling, scary, sob-inspiring terror about nuclear war and the survivors. In such a war, is it WORTH surviving? Ms. Ecklar haunts us with her words, with almost soulless, hopeless passion in her voice.

"Terminus Est" is another song that tells a story from beginning to resolution, the dirge of a man or woman sworn to kill for society's good, but

feeling the inevitable prickles of conscience.

"Fallen Angel" is one of my favorites. It describes Captain Kirk's feelings upon seeing his beloved ship burn away to ash, and all without saying a name, using the theme music (tho' the music is hauntingly familiar) and with exquisite innuendo. This one did reduce me to tears, and still does after many playings.

"Temper of Revenge" and "Crane Dance" are interesting side-pieces for each other, from the cry of a woman who has lost her bonded half, to the youth questioning the "whys" of balance and growth and power.

"One Man Magical Show" is pure fun, a knee-slapping ditty that is a thanksgiving after the emotional havoc the other pieces put you through. And "Silver" is a piece with all the joys of first love--from what I gather, a woman for her guitar that sings so sweetly.

"The Hand of God" is my absolute favorite, perhaps because it raises up emotions of anger, fear, dread, defiance--you name it, this piece has it! Railing at those who would be a pawn to life, those who would crush the ones they consider different--this is VERY close to home with any fan, and probably is one of the deepest-felt pieces on the entire tape.

And last, but not least, to use a cliche, is "Lullaby for a Weary World". Written by T. J. Burnside, it is a lament to the poor globe we live upon, and how we ravage such beauty with such hate and hurt. Definitely another tear-jerker.

Needless to say, if you listen to all of this tape at once, you may have to take several days to recover. It is that powerful and that dynamic. The writing is superb, Ms. Ecklar's voice one that makes this person ache in longing to be able to sing so, and the back-ups, particularly the INCREDIBLE French horn playing, speak of the wonderful quality and love put into this "small-press" production. Julia Ecklar had her cohorts are to be highly congratulated. Quality, quantity, and lots of love thrown in.

Buy it. Buy it for a friend. Or two. You won't be disappointed.

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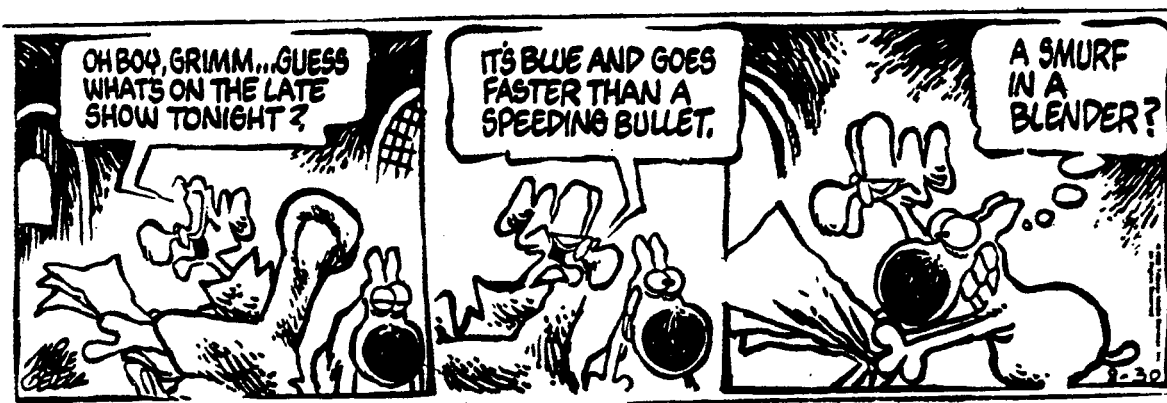
DETOUR

Indiana Jones has hit a rough spot on the road to his third movie.

The script by Chris Columbus ("Gremlins") supposedly didn't pass muster at Lucasfilm (no comment from the Columbus camp on the reject) and Menno Meyjes (Oscar-nominated for "The Color Purple") is now hammering out a new version.

Meyjes has had the assignment a while, his agent told us, but has only gotten to it the past month. He's been "distracted" by working on the adaptation of J.G. Ballard's "Empire of the Sun," about a 12-year-old boy surviving in Shanghai during World War II, also a project for Steven Spielberg.

—From Sue Martin



Why eschew obfuscation?

Doublespeak has its rewards, as NASA can now attest

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — NASA, Morton Thiokol and Rockwell International, contractors for the doomed Space Shuttle Challenger, have been named winners of the 1986 Doublespeak Award for the year's most glaring example of deceptive language.

The citation was announced Friday at the 76th annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English.

The Committee on Doublespeak monitors statements for language that is "grossly deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing or self-contradictory."

The committee targeted comments the three organizations made in discussions of the January explosion of Challenger.

Attorney General Edwin Meese took second place and the Department of Defense garnered third place.

The committee also named Neil Postman the recipient of the George Orwell Award for his book *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public*

"The countdown proceeds, assuming we are in a go posture. . . ."
— NASA official

Discourse in the Age of Show Business.

The award honors contributions to honesty and clarity in public language.

Committee Chairman William Lutz, in announcing the Doublespeak Award, said, "The language used by officials of these organizations in discussing the tragedy of the Challenger accident and the subsequent investigation of that accident was filled with doublespeak."

Lutz quoted a NASA official who said:

"The normal process during the countdown is that the countdown proceeds, assuming we are in a go posture, and at various points during the countdown we tag up the operational loops and face to face in the firing room to ascertain the

facts that project elements that are monitoring the data and that are understanding the situation as we proceed are still in the go direction."

The seven-member shuttle crew, including teacher Christa McAuliffe, perished Jan. 28 when Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff.

Morton Thiokol, the maker of the booster rocket, and Rockwell International, the main contractor to build the shuttle, also were cited by the committee.

"Officials of Morton Thiokol," Lutz said, "when asked why they reversed earlier decisions not to launch the shuttle, said the reversal was 'based on the re-evaluation of those discussions.' The presidential commission investigating the accident suggested that this statement could be translated to mean that there was pressure from NASA.

"NASA also called the accident an 'anomaly,' the bodies of the astronauts 'recovered components,' and the astronauts' coffins 'crew transfer containers,'" Lutz said.



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#4-13 available for \$2.00 each. SE#1-3 are sold
out.

Deadline for #15 -- February 1, 1986

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notices

Equal space will be
offered for replies.

From:

Strelsau Press
Regina E. Gottesman
100 West 94 Street
New York, NY 10025

As of August 31, I have mailed out all back-orders and refunds due on file with STRELSAU PRESS and answered all mail received as of that date. Anyone who has not been contacted within a reasonable time from that date, please let me know. My "to be answered" file is empty.

I am holding copies of ERRANTRY 2 and DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD for the following people, who were contacted last August and from whom I have received no reply:

E2: Roselyn Archambault, Lorraine Bartlett, Jean Curley, Marilyn Morey, Lorraine Mumaw, Annita Kaye Smith, Tracy Thurber

DES: Lois Jeanne Brand

I have attempted to contact them again by mail but, on the off chance they may have moved, I am also taking this opportunity to contact them. I will hold their copies of these publications until December 31, 1986, at which time these copies will be returned to inventory to sell elsewhere and I will refund the money on record to them (if any) when they do contact me.

I am also trying to contact the following, as mail sent to them has been returned to me:

Omar Velasco; Miss J. A. Perrin (England)

I am also holding a number of SASE's for ERRANTRY 2 and DES until I see how many copies of each I have available for sale. I will then answer these SASE's in the order of postmark date. Please be patient; it may take a while before I hear from everyone for whom I have copies on hold.

Last Call

I am issuing a last call on back issues of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. Cut-off date for ordering back issues will be June 1, 1987. After that date, they're going in the trash. They've been piling up in my living room for three years now and it's time to clean house! Issues #4 through 13 are currently available for \$2.00 each.

Editor's Desk

The March issue--#15--will be the last issue of SE for a while. The reason behind this decision is a very special one -- I'm expecting a baby in May. We are overjoyed at our new addition, particularly since we have been trying for over five years to have a child.

As most of you know, I've had several bouts of ill health in the past couple of years. What most of you don't know is that some of those episodes were actually miscarriages, the last one in February of this year. The year before, I was hospitalized briefly. There have probably been others. There are a number of factors involved that make this a high risk pregnancy, so we are holding our breath and praying that this baby will go full term and be born healthy.

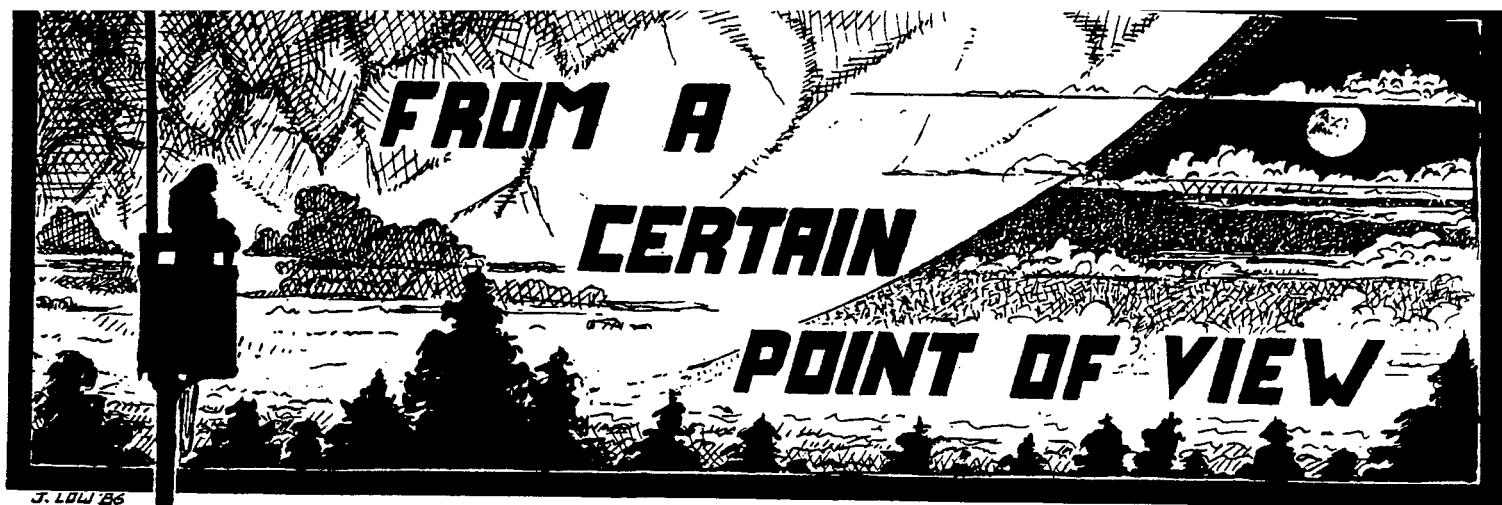
I have decided to put fandom on hold for a little while and devote myself to just being a mother. CHOICE PARTS should be out shortly, if it's not already. A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #4 will be postponed indefinitely. I'm not cancelling SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, just taking a short vacation from it. By the time #15 sees print, I will have published 21 zines in four years' time--if you count SE, which I do! I think that's pretty close to a record! So, even without the baby, I can use a breather.

When I feel ready to jump back into fan publishing, I will let each of you know. If there's enough interest, SE will be revived. If not, then I'll just let it slide off into history. I would be delighted if all of you kept up a lively correspondence and that one or more of you would feel inspired to keep the ball rolling by starting a new letterzine where SE leaves off!

If you would like a refund on your subscription, just send me a SASE and I will refund your remaining money as quickly as I am able to do so. I will also take this opportunity to apologize for any tardiness in answering mail or orders recently. I've been going through the whole bit of morning sickness (or in my case, all-day-sickness) and monumental fatigue. Some days it's been all I could do to get through the necessities; there just wasn't any energy left over to attend to fanac...or anything else! Those of you who've been through it know what I mean. Hopefully things will smooth out soon and I'll get caught up again.

It's been a real pleasure doing SE and making so many acquaintances through it. I have to admit that it hasn't always been fun to do--particularly when things got nasty a few issues back--but for the most part, it has been a rewarding and entertaining endeavor. I hope you have enjoyed it and I hope that in a few months there will be enough interest to pick up where we left off.

Thanks to all of you for participating with your locs, articles, private letters and an immense amount of encouragement along the way. I really couldn't have done it without you!



Gail Small
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September 6, 1986

Greetings All, from the Dim Side of the Force!
(I snitched that one from Pat Easley--*sigh* wish I could think up stuff like that...)

Got about half through SE13 and decided I was tired of procrastinating about that LoC I've always been meaning to write... Seems like I know all of you, since I've met you through your letters, and have the pleasure of calling some of you friends. A late-bloomer to fandom, I want to tell you how nice it is to be home--among people who don't think I've lost my buttons! Well...uh...not all of them anyway...

Back to ish #12 for a minute.

Carolyn Cooper: Mos Eisley Vice?? I loved it. I'll volunteer to help you interrogate Luke... I'm sure that between us we can think of lots of reasons to detain him. For a few years, maybe? I'll even make the ultimate sacrifice and allow you to incarcerate him at my place! While we're at it, let's grab Han and let Cheree give him the once-over (or twice--whatever).

Regards the missing scenes. My exceedingly clever son, 10 at the time, pointed out one nobody's mentioned so far. When ANH came out on cable, TMC and HBO were running it at the same time. As Han leaves the cantina, he flips a coin to the bartender. In one version, we see the coin leave his hand and then he heads for the door. That was TMC, if memory serves. In the other, the camera pans to the bartender and we see him catch the coin.

I dearly love those little "glitches"--like 3PO's silver leg. I was so excited when I spotted that one that I postulated for days! Like maybe a huge black German Shepherd with immensely long fangs ((Ed: Like Thor, my huge black German Shepherd with immensely long fangs?)) and a kinky appetite attacked him and he couldn't get back to the factory because he was stranded in Captain Antilles' back alley, so good ol' R2 had to save the day by re-modelling Mrs. A's brand new galvanized trash can...

Kerri Smithline: Force vampire!!! Egads! This woman's a genius! Aside from the mental pictures I got from that one, I decided to give it some serious thought (okay, so I need help...). There's no 'almost' about it. From where I was sitting, ol' Palpatine was definitely getting his jollies from tor-

menting Luke to blind fury. After all, except for fits of pique, Vader has his own angers damped down to smoldering impassiveness most of the time. That couldn't have been nearly as...stimulating as Luke's rage.

Matthew, et al: Character owning? Legalities aside, I own my Luke and you own yours. They're probably not all that much like George's Luke anyway. Each of us sees the characters in his or her own way--my Luke is really a part of me, just like Cheree's Han is a part of her. I, too, try to keep my characters close to George's universe, but it can't be done perfectly for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, I doubt any of us would bother to write about people we don't have a personal relationship with. Luke is more real to me than you are--not just because I've seen his pictures (I've seen your picture, too), but because through the stories and poetry I write, I know what he thinks about, what he did between the scenes George showed us, where he went after ROTJ. What I don't know is where George took him when he wasn't on screen.

And, that's the second reason. Only George can really fill in those gaps for his Luke and only he should. I suspect, though (guilty pleasure?), that George's Luke is as precious to him as mine is to me and that may be why he tries to guard him so carefully.

I would mind if someone took one of my original characters--only because then the character would change--would become the product of someone else's fantasy. It wouldn't be the same character at all, anymore, in my eyes. Then, unless I didn't care much about the character anyway, I'd be compelled to think to myself, "my So-and-so would never do that." Even if I nodded and smiled or looked the other way. Fortunately, I doubt I'll ever have the problem!

Alternates? I love them. It gives me a chance to peek into somebody else's fantasy. Darksider stories? They give me the shivers and I can't say I enjoy them in the way I do the other types of stories, but some of them are an awfully good read--I've even written a couple, but my Luke would never do that! Well, only once...

Ozzel? Personally, I think Vader offed him because he didn't like his condescending attitude. That, alone, was enough to make me want to strangle him, and I'm not even a Sith Lord.

Bev Clark: I loved what you said about Luke's revealing Leia's identity as his sister. Words and images are so mixed together in the thought process

that it's almost like mental shorthand... I'd think, though, that knowing how devious Vader was, Luke would be shielding harder than ever. I wonder if Vader didn't batter at him so mercilessly, that a panicky thought crept through.

When did sexual abuse of children, teenage pregnancy, drugs, herpes, AIDS, etc. stop being the problems of the world and get handed over to the fundamentalists? Hatred and bigotry go against the laws of God no matter where they come from. Some bigots are Christians (or, rather, attempt to pass themselves off as Christians), but not all Christians are bigots. STAR WARS and Smurfs the work of the devil? Give me a break--he's much more subtle than that. My kids were raised on STAR WARS and in Sunday School, and believe me, the fundamentalists who think SW is going to corrupt young people don't give kids much credit for having any sense.

Barb Brayton: I'm with you--there are a bunch of "trash the hero" stories and I often wonder if we aren't trapped into seeing if we can't top the last one we read. Why do we read them? Because we love the characters, we will read almost anything that deals with them and because the writers are so incredibly inventive about getting them out of those scrapes. The ones that really bother me are the ones where the hero gets trashed permanently--mentally or physically. I can get through most anything if the hero comes out of it somewhere in the grey areas of "normal."

Another thing that strikes me are the large number of stories out and about wherein Luke must be rescued. Aaarrrgh. I don't mind Luke being rescued once in a while--heck, everybody gets into messes they need help getting out of, but c'mon, guys. Pleeze.

Tim Blaes: I just happen to have a '69 VW bug named Eleanor to which Luke may make all the modifications his little heart desires... By the way, a VW engine is not under the hood, it's in the... ahem...rear.

If mechanicals could have a soul, Eleanor would have one, but she doesn't, so they can't. So there.

Mary Kever: Sure enjoyed meeting you at Conzineence. Let's browbeat Jenni into doing it again next year, and for heaven's sake, the next time, bring your Luke doll!

You know, it's my own personal opinion that if Luke's still a virgin, all the women in the SW universe are frigid. We need to take both of them straight away to Dr. Sangovall and have him sort them out. While they're gone, a certain select few of us have a lot of work to do... I'll even be gracious and go to the end of the line--because when it's my turn I'm gonna keep him...

Anyone: Anybody out there ever read BEYOND TIME AND SPACE? (Regrettably, I've loaned my copy to the black hole and can't for the life of me remember the author's name.) Anyway, I only read it twice, and it was a totally new area of inquiry for me so I'm still learning, but the gist of it is (I hope--can't even find my book to check my memory, forgive if I've got it wrong) that everything we think, imagine, dream or desire co-exists on another plane of reality.

Hot dog! What a nifty idea! Of course, it's infinitely more complex than that, but the hopeless romantic in me adores the idea that all us Marisu's are out there in the quantum foam somewhere zipping around in our respective galaxies with our chosen hero. Now...if I could only figure out how to make the jump!

I'd love to correspond with somebody--anybody

else interested? I'm a real neo with this one, but I'd be glad to learn.

Anyone: Ben's "certain point of view" statement--from the kids' POV, everything works out fine. As with all the rest of the saga that's under hot debate, it's the subtleties that'll get ya. Everything Ben told Luke about his father was true, depending on how you look at it, but it seems to me that not telling him the whole truth was as bad as if he'd lied. Sin of omission...

Those two old darlings knew exactly what they were doing. They trained Luke as a Jedi Knight, sure, but they allowed him to think that they were training him to kill that villain Vader, when in reality they were training him to kill his own father. What a betrayal. It's one thing to equip yourself to be the executioner of a mass murderer, and quite another to find that you have been tricked into killing your father, who is a mass murderer. Granted, Vader deserved killing, but Luke should not have been denied the right to choose.

Would they have told him that Vader was his father if he hadn't asked? My own opinion is that they would not have. They would be reasonably sure he'd refuse so they'd send him on his way, ignorant.

They never told Luke to kill him--only that he had to face Vader, you say? Phooey. Omission. They also didn't tell him not to kill him and certainly implied that he should.

They wanted Luke to turn Vader back to the Light, you say? Phooey. Horsehockey. They didn't think it could be done. All in all, those two old fossils were the worst villains of the piece as far as I'm concerned, and all in the holy name of justice, too, I might add. What a bummer.

Ooops. I'll climb down off that tower of soapboxes I built for myself, now. Besides, my throat is raw from screaming. I didn't know Ben and Yoda could still get me so upset. (Talk about bigotry and hatred...) If you disagree, pretend you didn't read those last comments. They made me feel a heck of a lot better and you didn't read them. Right? Right.

Everyone: I was lucky. I met fandom through a BNF and most of my fannish friends have their names bandied about on a regular basis, so they don't awe me in the least. It is my observation that being a BNF is a thankless, dirty job, but somebody's gotta do it.

Well, I'd like to thank them.

Thanks for bringing me home.

Thanks for helping me to realize that all those awful secrets I had in my mental closet were normal.

Thanks for taking me into the fold even though the only thing I had to offer you was a love of the saga.

Thanks for being generous with your fannish treasures, for sharing them with me until I could acquire my own, and thanks for sharing your hearts. You are all very special people.

Last but not least, thanks for not minding that I don't list your names. I'm trying to protect your reputations and anyway, you know who you are.

Walk the skies!



Lin S. Ward
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September 22, 1986

SE#13 was great (as usual!). I especially appreciated the article on the Fan Q's. I have definite ideas about the awards and shared the article with a friend who will be attending MWC with me next year. We're gonna get in our 2 cents' worth about best letterzine, etc. *smile*

Ming--Eek, what a chilling picture of clones, but it makes a lot of sense. How very sad. This would be a fascinating subject for a story. (Personal aside: I got my rubber stamp at Toys 'R' Us.)

Carole Regine: The idea that Vader's first duel with Luke might have reminded him of his own confrontation with Kenobi is a fascinating notion. If part of his falling to the Dark Side was due to bitterness about Kenobi's behavior, it's quite credible that stepping into Kenobi's shoes for awhile might have helped ease some of that bitterness, and encouraged calmer reflection on his experience. S.M.U.T.T.I. sounds like just the organization I've been waiting for all my life... Do we get to choose the hunk who gets pictured on our membership card?

Cheree: I think Anne McCaffrey might make a good job of the First Trilogy novelization. Fannishly, I'd vote for Ellen Randolph, who's written a great Third Trilogy, or Carol Hines-Stroede, who's already written a fascinating version of the First Trilogy.

Marlene: I agree about the art in TREMOR #3. I wrote in my LoC that all the art was so good that I couldn't pick favorites, and it was no exaggeration! Before I wrote my letter, I made a list of all the notable pieces, and by the time I was finished, realized I'd best say "everything." Yeah, Dianne Smith is especially good; saw some of her oils at WorldCon and I think she did well, so everybody must agree with us!

Barbara Gardner: In my last issue of BANTHA TRACKS, No. 38, they stated that we'd continue getting issues until our subs ran out. Mine has expired, so I'll never know the Final Outcome.

No, you're not the only one to have read SHADOWSTAR; gee, I first heard about it right here! Not only is it a good zine, it also comes out often and regularly!

What an original idea, it had never occurred to me that the face behind the mask (in the cave) was Anakin's!! It fits with Carol Hines-Stroede's stories, too, although one of my friends maintains that she can't picture Anakin as a blond, because blonds just never look and sound powerful to her. Any comments?

Maggie: I love your concept of fanlit as folklore! It certainly is an art of the "folk", created to fill our needs for self-expression, a whole different category from making money. Crafts, needlework, and other hobbies fall into this category, too, I think.

Appreciate your comments on LoC-writing. I had gotten the impression that unless I had some profound and erudite criticisms to make, I needn't bother to write any letters. Yours and everyone else's comments have certainly laid these qualms to rest. I've decided, furthermore, that "good writing" is very much a subjective thing. I know many cases where stories I've loved, and thought well-written, were panned by a fellow-fan, or vice versa. And finally, I can think of numerous stories that

I've loved for their originality, exuberance, characterization, etc., that may not have seemed very well-written. In other words, I agree, good writing is not necessarily a criteria with this folk art. If I wanted to read Hemingway, I know where to find him!

Perhaps one of the reasons I always related to the concept of the Dark Side is because my mother described Hell to me as being unaware of God's presence. Which is one explanation for why you only need to declare your faith in order to enter heaven--you were already there, and just didn't see God. (Well, it makes sense to me.)

I agree that much of SW's charm for me is the idealism shown in the people's political beliefs, in their interpersonal relationships, in their social concepts. I don't think it's a conservative film, although it does espouse traditional idealism. I think of the Boston Tea Party, the Underground Railroad, etc.

Your ideas about the Old Republic fit all "the facts", and make some cogent extrapolations. I loved the way you tied together the Jedi's views of the Force with their political philosophies. The idea that the rebels are trying to "repair" this flexible network, gives me much more hope for the future of that galaxy. It seems easier to organize the planets to do their own thing, than to try to get everyone to agree to some common constitution, or whatever. ((Ed: It occurs to me that that may be the underlying reason for the revolt--that the Empire is trying to force a rigid ruling system on a multitude of planetary systems, doing away with the home rule system that had been in force for the long lifetime of the Old Republic. If that is true, then the Empire seems doomed to fall as more and more systems revolt against it.))

Bev: Interesting idea that mechanicals might have different personalities after their repairs, in which case they gain mortality. If we ever reached the point of creating machines that learned and felt and thought like biologicals, how could these beings be recreated exactly the way they were before a major repair? I guess we don't know enough yet about the human brain to begin to make conjectures about what's ultimately possible in a mechanical brain.

Carol Peters: I've wondered, too, where all the Jedi children went. Their survival or revival might depend on what a Jedi is, anyway. If anyone can be a Jedi, then maybe it wasn't necessary to off the children; maybe it was just necessary to eradicate all the teachers and espousers. If Jedi-ism is genetic, then it's horrible to picture the slaughter attendant with Vader's rise to power.

Vonnie Fleming: I enjoyed SITH YEARBOOK and IMPERIAL ENTANGLEMENTS, too, primarily for the Piett/Serzsho stories. I just loved that little guy; the stories are spellbinding. Besides the fascinating alien culture of the telepaths, and heartwarming romance, I enjoyed the detailed portrayal of life in The Emperor's Service. Those little touches like "clone loaf."

I think many fannish stories have cited Vader and/or Luke as Alderaan; maybe it was Vader's behavior when the planet blew up that inspired this viewpoint, but it's perfectly logical, in view that Leia was at least Alderaan by adoption.

Agree with all your comments about Ben. I appreciated Carol Hines-Stroede's well-rounded portrait of Obi-Wan as a brilliant leader, who had plenty of human frailties (haven't we all?).

I'm so very sorry to hear about your sister.

Michelle: Interesting observation about female SF writers. Most of the SF I read shows people's reactions to unnerving, difficult, exciting, dangerous, etc., situations; it's very stimulating and educational for me to see how these characters handle these problems, and I can't get into SF that doesn't deal with this in part, because if anyone is in a difficult situation, the way they feel about it governs the way they handle it, right? Well, if concepts and characterizations are a result of more women writers, I'm all for it! (I'm all for it, anyway!) You don't look 39!

Happy holidays, everyone!

Force Training

Matthew Whitney
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September 22, 1986

Sorry to hear SE and TIF are causing a financial burden on you, Cheree. You put in too much work to have that headache as well. The less expensive format for SE will be a tiny sacrifice to keep the zine going. With SCOUNDREL's last ish almost here, SE will be the only forum of its quality left. If there are others of its caliber around, I don't know of them, but would gladly subscribe if someone lets me in on their existence. For now, it's up to us to keep this great forum open.

Onto comments on issue #13:

Re: the term "fen". Anyone but me not like it? Sounds like something in a barnyard. Cluck, cluck.

Ming Wathne: On clones--a very interesting analysis, or in other words, I like the way you debate your points while not necessarily do I agree with all of them. In an earlier LoC, I said that the stormtroopers, who are the best candidates for being clones, seem to have personal identities. The scenes I based that assumption on is in ANH, the conversation between the two guards at the tractor beam control. Not conclusive evidence at all, but that's how it struck me. There's always the possibility that GL merely made a cinematic choice to liven up a scene, rather than intending it to answer all questions about the natures of stormtroopers. Like in the ST universe (primarily the series), SW is growing and evolving, and minor details may get contradicted by later films.

Carole Regine: On Vader's p.o.v. of Luke's rejecting his offer. Excellent. I've always looked at it from Luke's side, but you are right. Vader, in his own eyes, is not the evil. This is true of any conflict. Each side perceives itself as right and its opponent as wrong, while, ultimately, only history points to the villain (a.k.a. the loser) after it's over. Look up some WWII Japanese or German propaganda about the U.S., England and the U.S.S.R. (Though the Russians' was well deserved. Their drive to capture Berlin was a nightmare that rivaled the Nazis' death camps. An eye for an eye making the whole world blind.)

I also liked your thoughts on Force-training children, Carole, but from my LoC in #12 that should be obvious. Pushing children from the first lessons to Knighthood should not be the way, but to give them skills and knowledge so they can choose when the time comes would be the wisest course. When is that time and how early should serious training begin? We don't know yet, but perhaps children with Force-training, skills that allow them to probe their own minds as well as the "simple tricks and nonsense" Han spoke of, cause the children to mature at a faster rate. They might be ready to make a choice sooner than a child who develops without that training. If possible and if they did choose to follow the way of the Force, the training could begin early enough to prevent any more Darth Vaders. (Is that where Kenobi went wrong with Anakin?) There are more questions here: most importantly, if this is possible, would it be depriving Force-training children of their childhood? Jedi have a rep of being stuffy and serious (in fandom, who knows what GL is planning?); could this denied childhood and accelerated maturity be a reason?

Re: Vader using the Force to call into his hand a glass of water. I don't recall it, but Cheree's suggestion that it's from ST's "Where No Man..." sounds logical.

Carole, your last paragraph made me look strongly at what I've commented about fanlit, especially alternate universes (AU's). In nearly every case of AU stories it surely is the author's sincere interpretation of the characters, what they perceive GL is trying to convey. My looking on a particular AU story as "trashing" the characters is colored by my p.o.v. as a reader. The author is fighting all my biases, likes and dislikes, resulting in stories where I don't like how the characters are handled being labeled "trash". In that, I am playing history, deciding who's the hero and who's the villain (to make a little analogy with part of my letter above). Chances are you'll never see me review fanlit. My biases are too strong to make me fair. If I like something, I love it, but if I don't, WATCH OUT!

Re: Authors for novelizations of the other trilogies. If they were to be written, I'd nominate James Kahn of ROTJ fame. That was the best of the three, if for nothing else just plain great writing. (I said I don't "canon-ize" them, not that I don't read them. Ratings: ANH -- 2-1/2, TESB -- 3-1/2, and ROTJ 4 out of 4.) Wayland Drew is also good. He did an excellent job with the DRAGONSLAYER novelization (anyone notice I'm obsessed with that film?), and his Erthring Cycle trilogy is quite good. I'm just about done with book two, THE GAIAN EXPEDIENT now. Anne McCaffrey? I'd rather she turn out more of her Pern series than a mere novelization. Established authors are better in their own universes anyway, IMO, because they would rather create than novelize someone else's work. Not that I'd doubt the quality; I'd worry they'd alter the material in the translation. Did someone mention Vonda McIntyre? ATTACK! I've barely recovered from ENTERPRISE: THE FIRST ADVENTURE. McCoy's classic line fits the novel closely, but it is Jim who's dead this time. Vonda massacred him. Fan authors? I know one, but modesty forbids. Ha! Ha! But seriously, I'd love the job. That way I could ensure that I'd like it, at least. Unfortunately, the book would come out a year or two after the film at the pace I write. Caroleyn Gollidge is a front runner. As is Jenni Hennig, and I bet Cheree was being modest not throwing her own hat in the

ring, so I'll do it. Someone has to embarrass her by saying they can't decide if her forte is editing, writing or drawing. (How's that for a triple crown?) ((Ed: Thanks, Matt, but at the rate I write, it would never come out!)) L. A. Carr and T. S. Weddell are also good choices.

Lisa Thomas: Not only do I live in the home state of our Celtics, but Springfield happens to be the very birthplace of basketball. And I've yet to visit the Hall of Fame, not four miles away. Shame on me. Who else has visited great historic/cultural spots hundreds of miles away, and still has not seen everything in their own backyard? By the way, Springfield celebrated its 350th anniversary this year--and we are still going strong!

Barbara Gardner: I don't think George will let me Xerox his notes. I'll have to pull an 007 (or agent 86) stunt and have a hidden camera in my STAR TREK lapel pin.

Kerri Smithline: On why Vader blocked Luke's saber and the possibility that the Emperor would have absorbed the energy and become super-powerful. Hum. Different idea there from what we've heard in the past. I don't think Obi-Wan's line corroborates it, though. Kenobi did not absorb DV's saber energy, IMO. He channeled his own power at that moment of death to zap himself into another dimension. He knew death was imminent, so he prepared himself to make the transition. As for these "blue screen Jedi" (using Lin Ward's clever and hysterical term), anyone notice none have ever interacted with anything in the physical world? All we've seen is them giving Luke lectures/advice or Ben talking with Yoda. Maybe they cannot have anything to do with the material universe, and are only some kind of visual representation or projection from that other dimension. This could mean Kenobi's line to Luke, "I cannot interfere" was a statement of fact, not that he was choosing not to help Luke out of disapproval.

Ye Ed: You are welcome in regards to DRAGON-SLAYER. I am glad you could catch it again (the TV premiere, I bet--a hack job, but at least it was run), and that you were more aware of Ian McDiarmid. He also had a small role in GORKY PARK and was interviewed in STARLOG #82. The cast of DRAGONSLAYER was fantastic, and most are real journeyman actors. They may not always be headliners, but work regularly and turn in one fine performance after another. Sir Ralph Richardson was a legend in his own time; Peter MacNicol went on to SOPHIE'S CHOICE and Broadway; Caitlin Clarke does a lot of theater around the country (I met her at New Haven, CT's Long Wharf Theater while she was doing a new play called "Not Quite Jerusalem"), as well as an occasional TV appearance; Albert Salmi and Sydney Bromley are veteran character actors; and John Hallam, who played the very Vaderish knight in black medieval armor, is a British TV vet (DR. WHO appearances for one, along with McDiarmid, who's also been on that show at times). Hallam, by the way, would be my hands down choice for Boromir in a live action LORD OF THE RINGS.

Dr. Mary Urhausen: Me a "sweetcakes"? I should say not.

On fanlit for the fun of it (hey, that rhymes), the Harry Chapin song you spoke of was "Mr. Tanner" and it is one of my all-time favorites. The line "Music was his life, it was not his livelihood" really touched a chord in me. It's been, with a slight variation, a motto of mine for years. In college, I wrote film reviews for the campus newspaper and, upon graduation, everyone asked me why I

went into teaching instead of getting a job on SNEAK PREVIEWS? My answer: "Movies are my life, they are not my livelihood."

Here's an open question for all fan authors: Are there any writers out there who hated writing in school and only got into it through fandom, because of a certain movie/series? That's the case with me. I am an extremely private person, and always hated those assignments (especially in high school) where I would be told to write about something--good, bad, important, funny, or whatever--in my own life. That scared the hell out of me. I think the first assignment I ever enjoyed was to write a short story in my Gothic literature course in college. By coincidence, the prof was a terrific SW fan, so we got along great and considered each other good friends (rather than teacher/student). That college fiction assignment and now fanlit allow me more freedom. Real experiences, if I choose to write about them, can be included without anyone knowing if they are real or imagined. ((Ed: In a turnabout way, I got into the career I am now because I wanted to write. I took typing in high school for the sole purpose of typing up manuscripts, having no interest or plans to go into office work. In college, I got into fandom and started writing so many letters that I began to type them. That only improved my skill and speed. When job hunting time came around, it was my typing abilities that started me inadvertently on the road to where I am now--assistant manager of the word processing department for a major law firm, having worked my way up through several jobs and the ranks from a typist position!))

Barb Brayton: The reason I think so many characters "get" it in fanlit is so that the author can then be the real hero. He/she is controlling everyone, so when the character is rescued, it is the author (by extension through their characters) doing the saving. After all, who doesn't want to be the one who shows up in the nick of time to save the damsel (or dashing rogue) from the villain?

Chris Callahan: Mainstream fiction? What's that? With very few exceptions, I haven't read any mainstream fiction since college, and what I read then was assigned. That is almost four full years ago. I read a lot of non-fiction, mostly science and military history, but 99.9% of the rest is SF/F.

If anyone is looking for some good fantasy novels, I strongly recommend Barbara Hambly's DRAGONS-BANE. Even better are Katherine Kurtz's Deryni books. The Deryni trilogy was very good, but her Camber trilogy was the caliber of Tolkein.

Chris, loved your analysis of LABYRINTH. You found even more in it than I--very insightful. A "right of passage" tale--absolutely.

Re: HOWARD THE DUCK. What a fun movie! I was in hysterics throughout. The humor hit me perfectly each time I saw it (3x). If you are going to be off the wall and outrageous, you might as well go all the way. A movie more off the wall than one about a duck from outer space saving mankind is hard to even imagine. There are a couple of quibbles I had, mainly that the chases went on a tad too long, but otherwise a marvelous film. Carrie Fisher better do a few more films, too, before Lea Thompson steals my heart.

Unfortunately, the film laid an egg at the box office for, I think, two reasons: (1) No one knew what to expect, and mundanes do not like to be surprised or get something different than they'd planned on. And (2), it should have been rated PG-13, to avoid the flak of reviewers saying it was

too violent and that the humor was too adult for kids (which it was, IMO). GL has a \$35 million cult film on his hands now. I said before he should not have to worry about budgets because the grosses take care of that, but I meant primarily the established SW and Indy projects. This was an unknown, and surely could have been made cheaper if they tried. A safe bet is that the next Lucasfilm will be much more budget conscious.

Lin Ward: Hey! You stole my entire guidelines for different levels of Force-sensitivity and training, as well as the different levels of abilities. How did you get into my notes? Just joking, of course, but I am amazed how close my thoughts on the subject parallel your own.

"What would Luke have learned if he'd left his weapons before entering the cave?" Nothing. He would have already learned to control his dark side. My interpretation of the "Luke in Vader's clothing" in the cave is that it is a projection of his own anger, fear, and aggression at that time in his life. When he gets those emotions in check, he won't have to fear the unknown and bring his weapons when told he will not need them.

I got a OSWFC copy of the ROTJ tape and the quality is great. Cheree's probably right that your particular one was a bad copy. Good luck on getting a replacement if you can.

Sally Smith: Howard Kazanjian was also the assistant director on Hitchcock's FAMILY PLOT.

Vonnie Fleming: G'day, mate! Did you get my letter? Thanks again about "Aftermath on Bespin", and thanks to Jenni Hennig for printing it in FAR REALMS 8, as well. There was a minor glitch in the printing (p. 93) where about a half page of my manuscript got eaten by the computer (Death to all computers!), but fortunately it was not a critical scene and hopefully any readers will be able to bridge the gap there. (Hell, I hope anyone reads it at all.) I want to publicly praise Mark Murphy for some great illos, too. We've never talked or corresponded, but his depictions were right on target with how my mind's eye saw them. Artists of Mark's caliber have my neverending respect and envy.

As for what I've been writing since--mostly short stuff, a couple of non-SW pieces and some vignettes for Sandi Jones' ACCOF zine. I'm also at work on a longer piece, a post-ROTJ story, but with how many rewrites I do before a story is finished, that's all I can say.

Why Darth wanted to die? He didn't. My view of Darth and Anakin is as sort of a split personality; the dark and light aspects of one individual. When the choice was made to attack the Emperor, it was not Darth but rather Anakin making it. The good side had been reawakened and his love for his son drove him to risk death rather than let Luke die.

As for what happened to that 6'5" black armored package, I think it's been rerouted somewhere in Ohio (see Ye Ed's comments on page 14 of ish #13).

I really enjoyed your comments on how the Jedi got a bad rep among fandom, Vonnie. Excellently worded.

And, finally, public thanks to L. A. Carr of Jumeau Press for the replacement of a contributor's copy of CIRCLE OF LIGHT #3. The original had a printer's glitch, but the replacement is perfect. Thanks, Lucy!

Thanks for another great issue, everyone! Follow the Force...

Jeanine Hennig
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Hello, did everyone miss me? No? Aww...

Let's just say that my absence from SE and from fandom in general the past few months stems from a case of VERY SEVERE burnout. (This too to those I've not written in a while.) I'm just now getting back into the swing of things and still a little wobbly.

SE has lately been rather in the redundancy department in discussing things. No offense to anyone, but there have been few new topics broached lately. Before I even get into SE#13 and start to comment, howabout I throw some topics onto the sacrificial fire?

1. The seeming demise of SW fandom
2. Various authors and their stories (I know, I've a stake in this one!)
3. The seeming demise of good SW zines
4. The seeming demise of good SW stories and/or ideas
5. The seeming demise of Jenni's sanity (only kidding! Got carried away!)
6. Various zines and what people think about them thematically, emotionally, etc., etc.
7. The splintering of fandom into smaller fandoms (could do with #1)

Okay, peoples. Take the money and run. Why do you think these things above are happening/not happening? Why do you feel the way you do? Let's have some FEEDBACK on this stuff--things die if you don't feed them properly, and death by starvation is NOT a very pleasant one.

Now, to silly matters.

Lisa Thomas: Just because Annie and I have been out for a while doesn't mean that we're out! Cheree, let's state here and now that I will bribe you with Han Solo naked illos for your smutty corner in your house if I can be first. So there, all you first attempters! ((Ed: Sorry, Jenni--I've told you guys--you have to hustle if you want to be first in SE!))

This to Sir Vader who wrote to me several ishes back. I write what I experience. And take that any way you want to. (And, if you should wish to help with my experiencing...)

Marlene: You, quiet? C'mon, now... As for myself, I'd like to see Luke in the backseat of a nice tan van with Texas license plates. I'll even drive him around--when I'm not too busy, of course. I agree with Cheree that there should be more discussion on stories in SE, as well as zines. It gives us something new to talk about. I haven't been able to read a whole bunch lately, but I think Miz Randolph writes a fair stick. However (and I've told her this!), I get really confused when I read her stuff and Luke calls his mate "Jess" there. too!

Speaking of fan stories, I'm going to diverge a bit here and talk about one of my points above, yet from a different angle. I think a good reason behind the "demise" of SW stories (and this is from some eds I've talked to who can't enough that is printable--and I've even gotten in a few stories lately that I can't use for one reason or another. At least I never have trouble filling FREALMS, tho' that can be a mixed blessing!)

Have we, in mainstream SW, said all that we have to say?

Now, before you all blaze at me, sit down and THINK. There can only be so many "Han and Luke and



Leia go out on a mission and get caught and..." stories before it gets to where you're saying the same thing over and over. So, after that, and after other stories that use only the main characters, you have the choice. Quit, be redundant, or add your own characters.

So, we're getting into alternate universe time. (I know, EVERY story is an alternate in the basic way, but I'm not talking in that line now.) TREK had to go the way of alternates, as well. Have we reached that point in SW? Not that there's anything wrong with it, other than confusing neos who try to catch up on these alternates that have been going for a while. But maybe it's time that we took a fresh look at what we're here for, and why. Re-evaluate. It seems we're going by the wayside--why?

Mary K.: Hi and I STILL have scars from those damned buzzers at Insecticon!

Okay. Tim Blaes. This is out of order, and I do so love to try and stay in order, but I really need to say a few things to you.

First off, quit being such a pain in the rump.

Second, it's a good thing you've not called ME "sweetcakes".

Thirdly, get off Cheree's back. You obviously have no concept of what putting together any kind of fanzine entails. If you did, you wouldn't say such obviously patronizing and plain ignorant remarks about typos and an editor's duties. Curb your snide comments to things you are sure you know about.

Now, I think I've gotten the acid off my tongue. Feels much better.

I am in the process of going pro. (One of my burn-out problems, because you can find that you're doing TOO much!) I owe my very existence as a hopeful writer to fannish lit. Where else can you get such a proving ground? Where else can you get such honest (and often painful if you are the recipient) criticism and comments? I recently had a publishing house want my work from the morass of the slush pile--first round! (Cross fingers, piggies and eyes that they really BUY it!) And I would have never felt that sensation close to heart attack when I opened the letter that requested said ms if not for my rehearsals in the fannish world. Hey, I never started out doing fan writing with an eye toward pro writing. It was strictly a hobby, nothing more. (Strange how your karma can bite you when you least expect it!) But fannish writing gave me my wings and I'll forever be grateful to fandom for that. As to continuing fannish writing, I don't think I could stop. It's an exercise for the mind and fingers, even if a lot of the stuff I've written will never see print in a zine. It's FUN, when sometimes writing for a Pro House (caps intended--it has been that frightening lately!) can be hard, HARD work. So I sit me down to limn a line 'bout Luke and Han and Leia and all the "Cat-lips" peoples...

And I've just read Dr. Mary's wonderful lines for broke-down ol' writers and I agree. If fanfic stops being fun, I quit.

Bev, please tell me where to get in touch with the Secular Humanists, if you know. I've heard about them a lot, but they seem to be rather Masonic in getting ahold of. I'll say that the rising "interest" in fundamentalism disturbs me more than the threat of nuclear war. There's a song in Julia Ecklar's new album, specifically a song called "The Hand of God" that says: "If your god helps the helpless, may he help you all well/I'm bound for the outside to find my own hell/If defiance means

death, I would die before stand like a sheep to be thrown to god's hand." The song, not to mention the album, is fantastic, talking about the ones who stand and atrophy instead of gripping their fates in both hands and twisting until that particular imp cries "mercy!" It scares me to the depths of my bones that narrow-minded hypocrites like that are running for political office, folks! Strong words, yes--but I have never felt stronger about anything in my life. Living in the Bible Belt as I do, I have been exposed to some of the "cream of the crop" people like that. Can you imagine what they'd do to people like US if they got the power? The Rebellion against the Empire might become a tragic reality!

We need more Christians like you, Cheree! Clap yourself on the back! ((Ed: Well, I'm not all that proud of my "heresy". I may not be considered a very good Christian anymore, at least not by Southern Baptist standards. It disturbs me that I'm not going to church, and, if I find a church that I feel comfortable with, I will certainly begin to attend on a regular basis once again, because I do miss the fellowship and the special closeness with God that I have felt there. But I've also always felt that God is more than hymn-singing and Bible-reading, that I could see Him better in a cloud or a blade of grass than in all the pulpit-thumping in the world. When I first began to study geology a few years ago and saw the incredible complexity of the universe around us, my perception of God opened up. For the first time, I knew the real meaning behind the words of the old hymn, "I stand amazed in the Presence..." In that moment of revelation, I wanted to fall on my knees before Him, in true awe. And now that I'm pregnant, I can feel Him intimately, forming the little person inside me, directing each little cell to its proper place. To me, that's truly God at work. And what disturbs me the most about the ultra-right fundamentalist movement is that they seem bent on dragging God down to their own narrow little perception of Him, denying His true greatness because they are unable to comprehend it. And that's the end of today's Sermonette. Back to Jenni...))

There has been a lot of bru-haha over UT being nominated for the Hugo. I have never been more incensed than when I picked up a copy of a Texas fan organization newsletter and saw them rip up the fanzine category just because one of the zines was a costumers and the other media. Well, needless to say, I won't join THEIR club! I can agree with Bev in principle on her opinion of UT's nomination, tho' I was glad to see SOMETHING get the nomination in fanzines. But I'm really annoyed at this "holier-than-thou" attitude that many "straight" SF fans seem to have. Hypocrites. Oh, they mouth big, and they say "peace" and "let's have a space program!" with all the rest, but they're all talk. It's unfortunate. How are fans to say they're "ahead" of it all when we can't even live together from such splitting up?

Chris C.: I think that most people are very dualist in concept--in regards to a character as being totally bad or good, no in-between! (Specify, Jenni, you blockhead!) Also, and this is a discussion I've had with several of my friends, too many fan writers are IN LOVE with the characters to write them properly. Now, you can love a character and write him/her but that is vastly different from being IN love with him/her. I love Luke Skywalker's character (and Han's and Leia's, for that matter!) but I am never in love with him when I write about

him. I can't be. A good side example is one of my own creations, a man named Tamlin Skywalker. He happens to be a "MarySue" (MarkieJohn?) of my mate, and I have some real trouble stepping aside and making good ol' Tam a loser occasionally, because I am "in love" with his source. I can think Kenobi's a bastard for the way he mouthed off at Luke in JEDI, but that doesn't mean I dislike him or disagree with his reasonings for sidling around the truth with Luke. I can think Luke's the hottest thing in black pants, but that doesn't mean that he can't be an arrogant you-know-what when it suits him. It all comes down to taking off those rose-colored glasses...

I think Heinlein's main problem is that he was raised in a chauvanistic society (male) and continues to write books that reflect that. It doesn't mean I can't enjoy them--just have to take 'em with a grain of salt. (You know, the woman who's hell in bed, can cook up a storm and has babies with the regularity of a rabbit.) PODKAYNE was one of my first SF books and I loved it then. Haven't read it lately, though. I may change my mind. ((Ed: I enjoyed Poddy, too, when I read it in high school. Heinlein, of course, bases all his women on his wife, Virginia. Whether she is actually the wimp he portrays her to be or whether it's just wishful thinking on his part, I don't know, but his "keep 'em barefoot and pregnant" attitude is infuriating, despite the fact that I thoroughly enjoy most of his books. CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY, HAVE SPACESUIT--WILL TRAVEL and THE PUPPET MASTERS have always ranked right up there in my all-time favorites.))

Agree with you on the deluge of fantasy-clone stories. So much out there is pure dreck. But, then, there are a few gems. I prefer fantasy and new-wave SF over a lot of the old "nuts and bolts" type stuff, but I'm into people, not things. One reason I like Heinlein with all his faults, he is a people-writer. When the people are used to dress up a spaceship, I put the book down.

I think LABYRINTH could have been a good flick. I've always loved Bowie, and the girl was wonderful, but the entire movie seemed to not know whether it wanted to appeal to kids or adults. There were scenes that took my breath away: the Escher staircases, the end scene between Sara and Jareth, the ballroom sequence--and there were real losers: comedy that wanted to appeal to 7-year-old boys, the bog of the farting behinds (to put it politely) being one of them. The overall theme was marvelous; I just think it was handled choppy.

Sally Smith: I tried and tried to get in touch with you at WorldCon, but we kept missing each other! I wanted to go and pig out at the hotel restaurant, then look at your slender body and feel ashamed of my own tubby one! (*SOB*) Yes, masochist me. And not in the closet, either. I believe you should be honest with your vices!

As to Sally, Sandi and I in the room with the Luke doll, we performed a magic spell, brought him to life, and totally exhausted him. It was great! (Well, Sandi and Sally, no one would believe we got together and had a lengthy philosophical chat, would they? Let's let 'em think SMUT!)

I am not going to see HOWARD THE DUCK. But in my foolish youth, I spent some pennies to read a copy of the comic and promptly decided it was a waste of time. I'll tell you, tho', Lucas can't say NUTHIN' about smut if he's got a duck doin' it with a human! *snicker*

Sooooo, I think I've probably made up for lost time. I think I'll take my "saber of love" and go

to bed--and let all of you wonder!

War is Hell

Ming Wathne
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Been meaning to write this for 3 weeks. Have just finished pencilling my outline for my 2nd fan letter. Wow, the pencil got away from me, but here goes. Seeing my letter in first spot really made me preen my feathers.

Margie Abadie: DUNE was a flop simply because it was badly done. Costumes and background simply do not make up for a story that has poor continuity and unexplained action. It should never be necessary to read the book in order to understand the picture.

Carole Regine: Let's have the Yoda Darkside story!!

Marlene Karkoska: Like your recommendation on the zines. Have read most of those mentioned and enjoyed-enjoyed. Add my plea to yours entreating Ann Wortham to continue SOUTHERN KNIGHTS. Love Carolyn's stories, the only thing I could possibly say is that sometimes her Han is perhaps too understanding, not of his friends, but I think Han would not always be the too-forgiving type.

Barbara Gardner: Why OV would want to freeze Luke? Just might be that Dad was not exactly sure how advanced his son had become, and having to stand round-the-clock guard duty or keeping the kid stoned out of his mind on drugs on his ride to the Emperor just did not appeal to him. He was not going to take a chance his junior Jedi was a lot more Jedi than he wanted left to impressionable guards, binders or chains.

With the reference to "hell" in English, we tend to use this not only as a reference to place, but also condition (and before we get to what the dictionary says, I am talking about actual usage. "War is hell" did not refer to a place but to a condition). Making up a word for this condition might be alright, but using the idea, "If it works, don't fix it", I adhere to the "If you comprehend it, don't change it" school.

Mary Keever: Agree with you, Luke was not stupid. He was young and had a lack of experience, but this is not stupid.

Along the same general lines, I also object to Owen and Beru being classified as more or less having a hand-to-mouth existence. Tatooine is not a rich world, but the Lars' home domes were well maintained and Beru had a very efficient kitchen (perhaps modern). The clothes might have seemed ragged and uninteresting, but how do you think our jeans, tennies and sweats would appear? All in all, I think the Lars' were probably a moderately well off family with all the necessities and some of the luxuries their world afforded.

Maggie Nowakowska: Paragraph! What is that?

On Carolyn's question about Mad Max--If the Australian tape is different, you are still stuck.

Europe, Asia and Australia use the system which is different frequency sequence. If you play one of those tapes on our machines, you get static and the sound is worse than Donald Duck at his worse. There is a conversion technique, but it is astronomical. \$125 for a 2-hour tape in L.A. If anyone out there knows where you can get reasonable conversion copies, please let me know.

Barbara Brayton: "Get stories" are the backbone of the antagonist stories. The "we against them". The "them" can be a gobble monster from outer space, or a sand storm. The fascination is that quarter gram of sadist found in all of us. The thing that makes you worry a sore tooth, bite at a hang nail, rub a healing scar or grin in triumphant relief when you swat a pesky fly. We all have good cries over sad endings, but in most cases, the happy and triumphant winning over adversaries are the more popular, and the greater the adversary, the greater the satisfaction.

Chris Callahan: So, someone else remembers SPACE PATROL. Did you ever see it on TV in black and white with that nice Commander Cody? (Think I even have the record in my 78 archives.) If you think going to the boys' section was weird, how about taking your pulp zines to school in a brown shopping bag cover?

Fantasy is just not my mode either. If fact, the only part of SW I did not care for was the ghost-like reincarnation of Obi-Wan. I felt this could have been handled in a different way. At least Yoda and Anakin had the decency to stay dead until the final shots of JEDI.

Lin Ward: I do not agree that the Force sensitives were necessarily lower-grade Jedi... The Jedi were sensitives that had training for a particular purpose. They were peacekeepers who happened to be warriors, more likely a different type of sensitive.

Tim Blaes: I have no complaint about the paper back covers either; must admit I enjoy seeing a well-stacked female. Don't mind seeing a well-stacked male either.

Sandi Jones: HOWARD THE DUCK was great fun (especially for my foreign visitors who had never been to a drive-in movie). But, if it was a make or break for Lucas, I am very much afraid "break" is the word.

Carol Peters: Thanks for calling the Jedi children "offspring." The children had to be trained to become Jedi. (Remember Vader's, "You are not a Jedi, yet.")

Vonnie Fleming: Agree with you about Vader on most points, but you can bet your SW buttons he wouldn't quietly abide by just any judgment by the Alliance. He was really a survivor, and he would try to survive.

Can't do a letter without one gripe. Okay, you editors, what are you doing with my SASE's? The ads say to send one for notification of zines, etc. Next thing I know, everybody and their great grandmother have copies of the zine, the ads have appeared in the new zines sections, and I still have not been notified. Come on, gang, is that fair?

Thanks, Cheree, for another nice issue. It is about the only way us stranded ones can keep in contact.

Maggie Nowakowska
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Hi, Ming Wathne! Glad you decided to take the plunge and join the rest of us letterzine crazies. I think you have a good point about the differences between rushed clones and real-time clones, especially the reminder that everyone grows up unique, no matter the genes. For all their similarities, twins are their own people.

Are there any twins out there among the readers who could add to this discussion? And, something I've wondered a long time, are there any adopted out there who could comment on Leia's name? I see fanlit calling her both Leia Organa and Leia Skywalker. My gut reaction is that she would keep the Organa identity because Organa raised her while Anakin Skywalker simply sired her, but you would know such a situation better than I.

Some comments that Margie Abadie made about Paul Atreides and that Matthew Whitney made on the Emperor dovetailed for me: Margie talks about Paul's aloneness in his messiah role, and how Luke, likewise, appears to have no checks or balances on his behavior as a Jedi, while Matthew points out that one of Palpatine's most emotional comments is his reference to Luke's friends and how they won't be able to help him, implying disdain for the notion of friendship. Perhaps, one price such subjugation of the Dark Side demands is isolation. Desire for power does seem to lead to paranoia in many beings. Luke will probably not have the same problems Paul A. has because Luke is not only a twin, but part of a close trio of friends. To be a solitary superman, he would first have to get rid of Leia, who we know is not one to easily step aside for anyone. And imagine all the purple prose that could be wrung out of Solo's thoughts as he prepares to blow the kid's head off. Maybe neither Leia nor Han could stop a Luke determined to go bad, but there would be plenty of bloody bodies lying around to betray him in a society where all eyes are already upon him. And then there are Chewbacca and Lando. If Luke had flown off into space after DS2 blew, or even after he burned Vader's shell, I might worry about a solitary hero complex. But Luke returned to Endor, came back to the celebration. I see that as a sign that he willingly chose to retain the ties that bind.

Carole Regine and Lisa Thomas brought up some points on Anakin/Vader that I'd like to respond to. As someone who interprets Anakin and Vader as two different manifestations of personality within one entity, I don't have any difficulty seeing the loss of Luke's hand on Bespin as an indifferent matter to Vader, save how he might use the injury to seduce Luke to his idea of a coup against Palpatine. I have to admit that the idea that Vader was disappointed in Luke's apparent amateurism (when Luke fell into the carbon freeze unit) never occurred to me. Vader's voice and gestures, to me, seem to indicate simple arrogance toward a youngster who thought he could be a Jedi. However, this incident might have touched the Covert Anakin suppressed by the Overt Vader, and could have contributed to the intriguing ambiguity on the Bespin gantry. Yeah. In fact, it's possible that this incident helped accentuate the faint stirring of Covert Anakin we saw when DV addressed the hologram of Palpatine ("He's only a boy."). Vader might have been indifferent to the injury (such things can happen in lightsaber fights, after all), but the spark of



Anakin still alive in him might have been upset, and flared enough for Luke to glom onto. Good idea, guys; this line of thought is great. I will stick to the indifference of Overt Vader, though, simply because, apparently aware of the castration symbolism in having Daddy cut off Sonny's hand, Lucas had Bruno Bettelheim ("Uses of Enchantment") on set to oversee filming and to judge the impact it might have on children; which to me, implies intended harshness in the scene.

Re: Luke in cave with face--I agree with Lisa that the face in the mask is a philosophical challenge rather than a personal, family one. Also, it could be a warning that obsession with the past is as bad as only looking to tomorrow. Given that Luke does not yet know his father's identity, I can see the scene meaning to Luke that he must separate himself from his father's affairs (old news), and be himself (current news), lest he run the risk of falling to the Dark Side from his resentment and anger.

I think Vonnie Fleming's idea that children might see Kenobi's CPoV scene as a riddle was great. I certainly wouldn't have thought of it, since as a kid I hated riddles. (By the by, thanks to everyone who mentioned LAST SANCTUARY, and for all the discussion of the Kenobi problem. I admit I'm touchy on the subject!)

Cheree, I like your suggestion that Luke drives a silver-grey Mercedes; but more, I like Tim B's modest car with hidden surprises. Perhaps, a compromise could be worked out with Skywalker acquiring that Merc now, while youthful pride still speaks loudly, then having him keep the car through the years until the quality of the care almost falls short of making up for the lack of faddishness. Maybe even the body could be damaged in some "tragic" bang-up, allowing Luke to transfer the fine engine to a more subtle carriage. Gee, a person could do a philosophical essay on the Jedi using Luke and such a car as a metaphor...

I agree, also, with Tim's assessment of Leia's probable love of speed. I can see her switching between a monster machine with bulk and presence, and a small, tight-turning and revved-up sport number--now you see me, now you don't, sort of magic machine. ((Ed: Sticking to the car thing, perhaps she'd use the white chauffeured limousine on state occasions, but have a fast little red Ferrari or some such for her personal use. And I wasn't being particularly metaphysical when I suggested a grey Mercedes for Luke, but now that I think of it, it is particularly apt for him. Grey leans heavily toward the Light, but still has that subtle touch of Dark in it, always.))

Barbara Gardner: Hmm, maybe it was in REVENGE OF THE SITH that Owen's name change came up. If you haven't read the sequel to A NEW CHALLENGE, I highly recommend it. The idea that Randolph was working toward in ANC reaches full realization here within the very personalized environment she is so good at creating. A satisfying post-JEDI speculation all around.

I'll support the notion that young kids can remember many things. My own memories go back to flashes under one year of age: images, sounds, directions, all substantial enough that I was able to describe parts of the house we lived in then to my mother. Substantial memories start at about 3 or 4. As for Luke's comment on Dagobah, perhaps he "remembers" Yoda's attention on him. Yoda does say "long have I watched this one"; maybe the watching touched Luke's subconscious in such a way that it

only became real to Skywalker once he was confronted with the real thing.

Regarding Captain Needa, remember, according to Kurtz in 1980, the novelizations are not canon. Lucas did indeed allow a certain amount of leeway, even in the "official" publications.

Kerri Smithline: Regarding who declared Luke a Jedi--there's a disagreement about such achievements within Terra's own philosophical community. Some people believe that only the person involved can judge his own enlightenment; others believe that such must be judged by that person's teacher/elders. I don't think there's any way to achieve a consensus on the matter since a person's opinion on it will reflect that person's individual life philosophy, and I suspect from Lucas' presentation of the problem in JEDI that he prefers to leave the judgement to the individual. Personally, I think a reworking of an old axiom applies best, i.e., "If you have to ask, you ain't there yet."

As for Jabba, Kenobi told Luke the Force has power over "weak minds". Jabba has never struck me as being weak-minded. And most especially, not weak-willed.

Barbara Brayton: Why do we write "get 'em" stories? That's a subject that's been around a long time! (Looking through my stacks of letterzines the other night, I found the subject of "gets" right up front in the first issue of JUNDLAND WASTES, March '81. And I'm sure I'd find plenty more on the subject in my old HALKAN COUNCILS from ST fandom. Fascinating reading, old letterzines. Wish I had the time to go through them all and index the rise and fall of discussion subjects, and to chart when major turnovers in contributors occur and how long it takes for a subject to surface, submerge, and resurface.)

A possible theory is that we like to see characters in an ultimate max situation, one which pushes them to the limit, because we prefer to play out, to "practice" if you will, such terrible experiences before similarly emotional times might happen to us. How a character experiences bad times, surviving or dying honorably, suggests both a template for our own actions, and gives us hope that we might also act properly in such situations.

There are also all the other psychological explanations. For example, many of the injuries fen impose on character after character, in all the different fandoms, are classic castration symbols. I never really quite bought such interpretations until I got into fandom and found the same injuries repeated time and time again, no matter the universe of a particular fandom, and always to the male characters. Maybe there are a lot of women around who need to "erase" the provided male image and rebuild it in a more pleasing (to them) fashion. Or, in a different vein (sic), maybe there are a lot of physically and emotionally abused folk among us who (whether they realize it consciously or not) can't believe in, or identify with a hero, until he is battered. Or maybe this is all psychobabble hogwash. This long-time-around subject is also a very delicate one.

((Ed: I've always felt that the "get 'em" or hurt/comfort stories were written to provide a situation in which nurturing is acceptable in a male-dominated society...and by that, I don't mean fandom, but society at large, the one in which we all grew up. Our heroes are Real Men, who keep going despite sickness, injury or adversity, leaving the Little Woman at home to tend the babies and generally stay in the background. But, our generation

of women does not find that acceptable. We have moved out into our men's world and are having to operate on their terms in order to function. That means we have to be Real Men, too, and our nurturing or mothering instincts have to be suppressed in order to be thought acceptable by the men with which we are now competing. However, in our fan stories, we have a subconscious chance to play out those instincts, by first causing our Real Men to be hurt and helpless, then pulling them through with our love and caring. It's the basis for all those Mary Sue stories, since many of us are still suffused in the Little Woman tradition taught by our mothers. That is, no matter how dog-eat-dog is the world of our men, home and wife/mother should be a haven of comfort and rest. And that may be all a bunch of psychobabble, too, but that's my impression of the subject.))

Tim Blaes: Yes, that spacelock Whelan book cover was great. I think it is the reality of the people in the illo that is so alluring. Too often bookcover poses are just that, statues that might have all the parts in the right place and decorated nicely, but have no life in them. And I have always found life much more attractive than plastic. I don't really object to cheesecake per se; I think it's quite normal and healthy and delightful that males enjoy looking at unclad females. But try to imagine growing up, surrounded by bookcovers with nekkid beefcake, eternally rampant, on them, no matter the subject matter inside the book, or the actual description of the character. You might be too embarrassed to pick up the book, and might very well get annoyed by the implication that all males are always ready for it and only interested in it. For myself, I get just as tired of all the hot seduction scene bookcovers with their swooning females and hunky males. ((Ed: One of my favorite pastimes is to go into the romantic book section of a book store and laugh my head off at the ridiculous titles and covers--"Hot Savage Love" with a hairy-chested male in tattered clothing crushing against his savage, straining body an orgasmic young lovely with her heaving bosom yearning free from her ripped bodice. Oh, please...give me strength...))

Love your TWILIGHT ZONE description of my doppleganger! Honestly, a Seattle version exists. And she drives a much better car than I do, implying a much better income. I've even had old lovers get us confused, which is really strange.

And, thank you, Tim, for suggesting that Han might like something other than rock. Sure, I can see it (hear it?), but it's such a cliché for our post-1956 generations! Long before there was rock & roll, there were young adults with high-energy needs to satisfy. Anyone who's heard bagpipes played like the proper warpipes they are, or has enjoyed a raucous fiddle set, will know how those needs were satisfied once upon a time!

Actually, in the 60's, it certainly seemed like "everyone" knew Batman and Robin were gay. As an old 50's Batman fan, I was infuriated with the way B&R were presented in jokes, and on TV, not because of homophobia, but because of what I felt was misrepresentation and because of all the sniggering that went on. And you'd be surprised at the strength the K/S business is gathering in nonfannish circles; it was discussed lengthily in a local paper's article on female erotica/pornography. Further, "/" seems to have become an expected development in a new fandom; one of the first five things I hear about a new fav seems to be about who's/who. Why, I'm not the person to say; no one has done it with

characters that I can believe in as of yet, and my taste doesn't run to the heavily romantic writing that seems to pervade "/". However, Joanna Russ has a supportive essay on the subject in her book, MAGIC MOMMAS, TREMBLING SISTERS, PURITANS AND PERVERTS. You might find it interesting.

Loved the "No visible means of support" bra for female human Jedi! Leaves one to wonder if there was a "metaphysical jockstrap" exercise for male Jedi to employ when faced with vigorous action...

I'll close with a blurb for the clippings file. From the Summer 1986 issue of SHAMAN'S DRUM (A Journal of Experimental Shamanism), p. 19: Shamanism on Television. "Every Saturday morning millions of kids of all ages are treated to lessons in shamanic practice on the "Ewoks" cartoon show, produced by George Lucas of STAR WARS and RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK fame. Nearly every show involves the good Ewok shaman Logray doing battle with his arch enemy Morag, and the word shaman is used directly. Clairvoyant dreams, talking trees, magical spells, amulets, and wisdom teachings are gently woven into this entertaining and popular series. Rumor has it that George Lucas considers mythologist Joseph Campbell to be his personal 'Yoda'."

Han as Bait

Carolyn Gollidge
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October 8, 1986

G'day, mates! Aren't you glad I'm back? Whaddaya mean, you never knew I'd been gone!! The Post Unprintable has obliged in time to allow me to bless you with more of my gems of wisdom, so I know you will want to write them undying letters of gratitude!

First up: Congratulations to those responsible for founding THE FIRST TERRAN ENCLAVE! What a wonderful idea! Long live SW!

Sad news to hear of Cheree's zine publication problems. Now's the time to show in monetary terms how much we appreciate and LOVE the work Cheree does to feed our SW habit. (Though I'm a great one to talk. Cost of First Class postage to Down Under Back of Beyond is exorbitant. I promise to help out somehow real soon, Cheree.) ((Ed: Don't worry about that, Carolyn. I'm not looking for handouts. The zine debt has finally been paid off flat so that worry is out of my hair now!))

Ming Wathne: Hello! What a lovely unusual name! Your argument for accelerated growth of clones and its results is both horrifying and unfortunately plausible. Many future problems for the New Republic! Have often wondered myself why Vader did not use Han's "statue" in Jabba's palace (?) as a "come into my parlour" trick. Can only

conclude he was ordered elsewhere, but even so, he could have had spies do his work for him. If he really wanted to capture Luke, such neglect does not compute. Maybe after Luke's suicidal act on Bespin, Vader was convinced his son would never join him against the Emperor. He did not want Pasty-Face Palp to get his claws on said son, so, he... retreated. As for the lightsaber debate, you lost me. Please elaborate on the difference between "turn on" and "activate". As for why Luke released Leia from the detention cell, thanks for pointing out what should have been obvious. I ain't known as the absent-minded professor for nothin'! I forgot about the holo in Artoo! (Comes from being blinded by Ford, I guess, so blame him!)

Margie Abadie: THANK YOU! I was addicted to the DUNE books when they first appeared. Your comparison between Lucas' and Herbert's motivations and themes was intriguing. Shuddered at the picture painted for Luke's future, if it paralleled Paul's! Agree with your thought re Duncan. The real one is dead! (sob!) You sure hit the nail on the head about the lack of humor in DUNE being one strong reason for its failure as compared to SW. Moviegoers need to be able to empathise/identify with the characters. Humans laugh, therefore, if the characters never show humor they appear singularly lacking in humanity. (More evidence for Deckard being a replicant! Though I don't think he was.) SW contains an essential message of HOPE (note title), DUNE paints a much bleaker (and, pessimistically, real) future for a "Messiah."

Carole Regine: Thank you for the parallel between Ben/Vader/lava pit and Vader/Luke/gantry. Great basis for a vignette on Vader's thoughts (hint) and a possible answer to question posed by Ming concerning Vader's failure to use Frozen Solo bait. As to why Kenobi's CPOV explanation was rushed...Lucas needed more film-space to devote to the Ewoks!

Cheree: Ditto for me on your remarks re "The White Feather" [by T. S. Weddell, A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3]. I already raved about it for Sandi's CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS #3, which is not in print yet. (IS it?) You really feel this IS Han's past. Thanks for the "hints", Carole, but T. S. Weddell has written the ultimate rendition of this one!

Lisa Thomas: Agree with your reasons for Vader's wanting to freeze Luke. Though I too think it follows that Vader wanted to "work on" Luke privately before an attempted coup. Sandi Jones is working on a wonderful story along these lines. Watch for it! However, if Luke had been frozen, I seriously doubt he would be very sympathetic toward any of Vader's suggestions...it didn't do much for Han's mood!

Marlene Karkoska: Thank you for your comments on "Above All Shadows". I was going to tear this one up, because I thought it was too dark, but my sister saved it. Have to admit, I can't bear to read it now. I flinch every time I read yet another long phrase describing (usually) Solo's pain. Continual injuries to Han? Guilty as charged. There was supposed to be a message in these stories, but, brother, did I pour it on thick! I swear I have now reformed! (Honest, Han. Please, don't glare at me like that...you have to take it easy, you know!)

Barb Gardner and Matthew Whitney: With reference to one large, black-shrouded package. Han and I have decided to alternately store it in the freezer and the microwave. To quote Han: "It seems only fair!"

Mary Keever: "Insecticon", huh!? You should see "the size of these things" in the Land of the Creepy Crawlies! Mossies don't call it quits in winter here, either. (sigh)

Maggie Nowakowska: Enjoyed and agreed with every word you wrote about "why we write" (but I'd like to add, incurable masochism!). Also liked your answer to the Vader/Luke question.

Kerri Smithline: BLUSH! A larger hat size here, please! THANK YOU! Force Vampire stuff?! WOW! It fits! Great theory! Makes a lot of things logical that weren't before. As for Leia in Hoth hangar, I figure she was worried for both Luke and Han. I too wonder why Luke didn't pick up on that wampa. Interference from the taun-taun, maybe? Both on scanner and in Force? I don't think Han was anything other than worried about Luke in the bacta tank scene. No Imperial aliens? Answer: (possible) Imperials are racists. Harrison being immolated in THE POSSESSED!? See, I ain't the only one who gives him a rough time! Always knew Han and Darth had something in common!

Matthew Whitney: I think you said it for all SW fan writers about our ultimate goal and what we see as the greatest compliment to our stories, i.e., SW (as Lucas created it) to live on in our work. I'm not much interested in non-SW film characters in SW stories either, unless they have a pertinent effect upon the originals. But, yes, each to his own. No one is compelled to read a story that does not suit his/her personal tastes. Censorship is a nasty way of making sure readers see only what one individual values/dictates. As a fellow teacher, I second everything you wrote re "forcing" children to learn. Some things are necessary for simple survival purposes, BUT what should be compulsory and what choice is a very iffy subject (especially when it comes to cultural mores/religion, etc.). A teacher's goal, I believe, should be to give an individual the ability to judge and decide for themselves, after teaching them the skills needed to search out information, live and learn. (Hey, ask Ben about some of these problems! Ha!)

Mary Urhausen: Pretty please, may I have permission to kiss your little tootsies? Oh, joy! Flattery will get you everywhere! To be included in such august company! I write for fun, and because I have something to say (you may have noticed, ad nauseum, literally!). No way am I ever gonna "lose the meaning" of writing, I'd rather stay poor! (sob!)

Bev Clark: Very much enjoyed your statements concerning secular humanism. (Cheree: Sounds like you and I have had similar experiences when it comes to religious elitism being pushed down people's throats. I quit full-time teaching in a denominational school for exactly the same reasons. But now I'm beginning to wonder if what we need are a few "under-cover agents"! Don't tell the interviewing principal I said that!)

Barbara Brayton: "Prevalence to 'get' stories!?" Really? Where? (HA! I learned that innocent look from Han!)

Pamela J. LaVasseur: Wish I could tell you a Burrawang was something exotic, but, alas, 'tis merely a humble native palm! Ask me about bunyips and such another time! Oh, by the way, Ettalong is aboriginal for "drinking place"! Believe me, the residents put in long hours keeping THAT tradition alive!

Chris Callahan: Cheers for your words about fantasy novels. Talk about an abundance of copycats and just plain garbage! (Actually, I'm jealous)

ous, they won't pay me for mine!) ((Ed: Just read two interesting books I can recommend--BELOVED EXILE by Parke Godwin, a very different novel about Guenevere, and a rather old Poul Anderson book called THERE WILL BE TIME, a time travel story with a different twist. Check 'em out!))

Lin S. Ward: "What other pleasure does Vader have available to him?" Sounds like a question for a Grand Moth to me. I'm sure you're eminently qualified to answer that one, Von!

Sally Smith: I got a smile a line from your letter! Loved your sense of humor! A bionic hand on that Luke doll?! For shame, Cheree!

Tim Blaes: You're coming on a little strong, aren't ya, mate! There's not a malicious bone in Sandi's bod! Oh, the Lando books? Don't waste your money. My opinion, anyway.

Vonnie Fleming: Whoops! Sorry, I mean, Grand Moth Fleming. Look for another promotion, Von! Darthie Diddums (uh, I mean, his Most Venerable Lordship!) will LOVE your whitewash-the-Dark-Lord letter! All kidding aside, it was a logical line of argument. (Don't scowl at me like that, Han!) Showed insightful knowledge of Darth's psyche. (Um, how did you come by that info, Von!?) Yes, the evidence in the films does support your theory that Vader did NOT want to die...gee, who does?! But remember, a person may be a tried and true survivor and still have moments of utter, suicidal despair. No, I don't think this was one of Darth's, all I'm saying is if he's human, he's capable of it. As for mindlinks between various characters in the films. Maybe actual physical distance plays a part? Luke was a lot closer to Leia in ESB than in ROTJ. Maybe he could NOT communicate words from so far away, but could only pick up pain, strong emotions. Your theory about Jedi downfall due to inability amongst them to pick up Dark vibes is an intriguing idea. As for kidnapping of Darth, see my answer to Barb and Matthew. (Don't set your Moths on me, Von, or I'll bomb ya with mothballs!) Vader an Alderaani? I like it. Seemed to me, he didn't look very happy about the Big Bang. But, ah, I guess, the bio-surgeons must have given him those long legs, huh?! The Jedis haven't got a bad rep with me! But, yes, they do seem very trusting. Luke sure was in ANH. A healthy dose of Corellian paranoia should forge an unusually durable new Jedi Order!

Before I forget--go see CROCODILE DUNDEE!! Laugh a minute stuff!



Dr. Mary Urhausen
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October 14, 1986

This has to be something of a first: It's still a good two weeks from the deadline for SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, and I'm actually sitting at my typewriter, typing a letter to you! [Cue: Theme from THE TWILIGHT ZONE.]

First of all, regarding your comments in the "Notices" section, I just want to offer you my complete empathy. Almost all of us reach a point in our fannish/zine-publishing "careers" where those real-life double-whammies--lack of money and lack of time--intrude on our fannish activities. I'm glad to see that you are just scaling down your projects, and not abandoning them entirely!

I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who voted for THE WOOKIEE COMMUNE in the Fan Q Awards for Best Star Wars Zine; we were thrilled and very surprised to win! And I'd also like to thank all the fans who have congratulated us since, either in person, letters, or in print. We really appreciate it (and so does the Wookiee!).

Marlene Karkoska: I very much agree with your comments concerning comments on zines in SE. Most people who buy zines don't LoC them (I'll be the first to admit, I LoC only a small fraction of the zines I read each year!). And the "professional reviews" of zines often leave a lot to be desired; besides, there just aren't enough of them to cover all the zines published every year. I, too, would like to see more comments about the stories, art, articles, and poetry in specific zines--even if it is just to say, "Hey, I read this fantastic SW story about that very same theory in such and such a zine, by so & so!" Many writers and artists operate in a frustrating vacuum, especially if they are new and just starting out. Feedback!

Mary Keever: Yeah, I wish I could have joined you all at Conzineience, too--insects or not! (Listen, after surviving this summer in Wisconsin, I can't believe Texas could have had any more bugs than we have! I live near Lake Michigan, and believe me, this is the "Mosquito Coast"!)) A major conflict in vacation/work schedules left me holding a useless airline ticket and a maddeningly useless con membership. Next time.

Maggie Nowakowska: I just want to comment on your question about what kind of zine "reviews" fans want. I think most of us just want the second kind, the "what kind of story was this, and what was it about, and why I liked it" kind of review. Frankly, the first kind of review, the dissection of the craft of writing method, is often over employed in fandom, by people of dubious qualification and ability. And, what's worse, it often fails to really give the fan any useful information about just what the heck the story was about, and whether or not the particular fan would enjoy it! And all of us can write the second kind of review, an added incentive when we are trying to spread more information about more zine stories to other fans.

Kerri Smithline: Your letter brought up the line Ben gave Vader on the first Death Star ("If you strike me down..." etc.). I've often wondered about this line. What exactly did Ben mean by "more powerful than you can possibly imagine"? (After all, we can imagine quite a bit, right?) All we can say for sure is that Ben became more dead! Was he a bigger mucky-muck in Glitterland than he was

in the real world? I've always looked at it from the standpoint that in one way Ben did become more "powerful"; I think his death made him a stronger symbol and a greater influence in Luke's life than he might have been had he lived. The memory of Ben almost seems to have been a more imperative goad than Ben in the flesh. But I'm not sure if that's what Ben had in mind! Maybe he was just BS'ing Vader??

Matthew Whitney: I agree with your comments about what attracts you to a particular fan story. If the characters don't "feel right," no amount of elaborate plotting or technical skill can draw me into the story. Unfortunately, each fan has their own idea of what feels "right" about our favorite characters!! (After all, look at all the fuss kicked up after ROTJ by some fans, complaining that George Lucas got the characters wrong!!) After a while, you get to recognize what zines and which authors mesh with your own point of view. And if once in a while you make a mistake and pick a zine that just doesn't "fit"--well, trade them off and move on. It has always been a matter of encouragement and good cheer to me that there are so many zines that I don't have any particular interest in! That means that there are a heck of a lot of zines out there that appeal to people with very different views than mine; and that means that fandom isn't such a homogeneous group after all. Matthew, you mentioned K/S as a facet of fan literature that you personally had no interest in. Yet, as you note, there is a huge segment of fandom out there that really eats it up! I think that's great [the diversity, not just K/S--although I enjoy K/S as well!], and it's part of the "good health" of zinedom. Diversity is essential to keeping fan fiction alive; no matter what little facet of media fandom you write about, there are probably people out there who want to read about it. Look at me: As well as SW fan fiction, I enjoy reading and writing in fandoms of many other kinds, including the fandoms where I've never even seen the 'parent program' [STARSKY & HUTCH]; fandoms where reading the fanfic got me to watch the 'parent program' [REMYNTON STEELE, SIMON & SIMON]; and fandoms where there are no 'parent programs'! This explains why I am usually broke, and spend all my time reading zines!

Barbara Brayton & P. J. LaVasseur: Hi, ladies! I wanted to comment on your question about the popularity of "get" stories. I think we got into just such a discussion on a panel on "hurt/comfort" at MediaWest*Con. And I think the general consensus was that the reason poor ol' Han, or A.J., or Indiana Jones always gets mashed up is that it's a tried-and-true plot device to allow one golden thing to show: true emotion. "Get" stories allow both the "gettee" and the "comforter" to reveal the kind of feelings for each other that they presumably "couldn't" under more mundane circumstances. Too bad that in this world, as well as in the worlds we have the power to create in our fiction, that we feel compelled to nearly kill someone before we can allow them to reveal what they are feeling. It would be fun [and a challenge!] to see some authors tackle the "NON-get" true-emotions story.

Lin S. Ward: You said you didn't know much about directing, and just what made Richard Marquand a poor director. He directed ROTJ exactly the way George Lucas wanted him to, that's what made him a bad director!! Seriously, all kidding aside, Richard Marquand isn't a bad director (see: THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE). It's just that a lot of fans [some of

whom seem to think they are good directors...] so violently disagreed with both the mood and the story line of ROTJ that Marquand has become their whipping boy. Not fair, but understandable. The only thing Marquand could have done is defy Lucas and try to inject his own vision into ROTJ--much the way Kershner did with TESB. I happen to think Kershner is a great director, and that TESB is the best film of the trilogy because of his "rebellion". However, George Lucas probably still isn't speaking to him!!

Sally Smith: FIAWOD, eh? Okay...! How about FIAWOP: Fandom is a way of poverty! On that note, til next time, keep your alluvial dampers dry!

Zine Recommendations

Carole Regine
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October 13, 1986

Hello, and happy holidays to all!

Cheree: Thanks for printing the Fan Q results and voting info. Also appreciated your recommending T. S. Weddell's "The White Feather." A friend has just lent me her copy of A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3 and I plan to read Weddell's story asap. (Carolyn Gollledge: My "hint, hint" still stands!) Who should write the official First Trilogy novels? I'd vote for Vonda McIntyre. Fanwise, I'd have a hard time narrowing it down to one. Hines-Stroede and Laymon & Goldstein have written my favorite versions of First Trilogy events, but other authors come to mind as well. Writing talent should be Number One Consideration but I think it would be equally important that the author like both Vader and Kenobi. I've enjoyed many good stories that focus on and lean in favor of one or the other character, but I'd like to see the official or generally accepted version tell both sides of the story.

Margie Abadie: Enjoyed your whole letter comparing SW with DUNE. As a fan of Herbert's DUNE novels, I was very disappointed with the film. Can't help but wonder about "what might have been" if someone like Lucas, with a real flair for story telling, had been given the job of turning DUNE into a mini-series.

Barbara Gardner: Osman's KNIGHT OF SHADOWS is an excellent novel, but you're right: her Obi Wan was a prize jerk. KOS didn't make me dislike him; it made me wish that this talented author had shown as sympathetic a view of him as she'd shown on Vader. I think even a non-Vader fan would love Osman's Dark Lord. You're a fan of Vader and Spock? I think the "Mirror Universe" Spock would've had a lot in common with Darth.

Mary Kever: You know me well! I'm studying to become a dirty old lady.

Barb & Pam: Get 'em stories appeal to me because they show (the author's beliefs about) what a character will do under extreme stress. Will his/her loyalty, courage, ethics stand up under the

infinite variety of ordeals that fan writers create for the character? Some Get'ems go a bit too far for my taste. (I'm thinking of a particular "Get Spock" tale involving some truly gross humiliation/torture.) I prefer Get'ems that imply rather than fully describe the worst of a character's trials, but that is just my personal taste: One fan's Yuk! is another's Stunning Realism. So far, I haven't read any SW Get'ems that have grossed me out.

Lin S. Ward: Very possible that Obi-Wan knew nothing about the twins when they were born, and that he had nothing to do with rescuing them from Palpatine. Or had Ben's background saddled him with sexist beliefs that Jedi training didn't exorcise? Perhaps his "last hope" remark was part of a 20-year-long argument with Yoda.

Vonnie Fleming: Thanks for your comments on my story. Reading your letter in SE, I can see that we agree on quite a lot of issues: The possibility that Vader was an Alderaani, reasons behind the collapse of the O.R. and destruction of the Jedi Order, the thought that Vader's choices weren't as easy as Yoda claimed. About children and forgiveness...I agree that children are quick to forgive, and so are adults when they like the person whose faults they've seen. I enjoy examining SW characters, especially those I like best. What I enjoy most, is discussing a "bad guy's" virtues and a "good guy's" flaws, not in an effort to reverse their roles, but to illustrate what I believe is true of all people--that we're all a mixture of darkness and light. I think I'd have said much more about Luke's flaws if SE hadn't been burdened with so much anti-Luke comment in past issues. Sort of felt I'd be criticizing a beloved friend in the presence of his enemies. *Sigh* I'd just started to enjoy discussing Luke's possible incestuous feelings and darkside temptations when a few people apparently started filling their fountain pens with venom. It would've been hard to make uncomplimentary but honest remarks about Luke or Han without being quickly ushered into one of two opposing camps. But now that Luke seems to be back among friends... The Luke of ROTJ startled me with his sinister entrance at Jabba's palace. When he Force-choked the guards, his expression was as coldly indifferent as Vader's mask. Upon seeing that scene for the first time, my exact thoughts were: "Vader's son. Yes, I believe it." And later, Luke's smile as he told Jabba, "It's the last mistake you'll ever make!" made me wonder just how close to the Dark Side Luke would go. I've seen ROTJ 33 times now (theater and VCR viewings) and I've seen nothing to suggest that Luke is on his way to the Dark Side, but I think several scenes in ROTJ showed what Luke would have been like if he'd gone over to the Dark Side. Can I forgive Luke for those dark moments? Forgive him, hell! I loved it. Maybe I'm a bit odd, but too much sunshine hurts my eyes. Darth's dark traits are shown so frequently on screen that discussing his Dark Side is a bit like rehashing Mother Teresa's acts of charity--known facts about which I can think of nothing new to say. I don't want to whitewash Darth, but I do enjoy discussing those moments when (just as Luke was tempted by the Dark Side) Darth seemed tempted by the Light. I liked your reason for why DV chose carbon freezing as his means of transporting Luke to Palpatine. Yes, a frozen Luke wouldn't have tempted Vader to rage. Your idea is very much in keeping with Vader's warning, "Don't make me destroy you." I'd love to see an a/u story in which DV does manage to freeze Luke, one in which

he thaws Luke before they reach the Emperor. I wonder how Darth would've explained all his actions, past and present, and how Luke--a captive audience--would've responded to his father's side of the story.

Matthew Whitney: Uh...sorry. I thought there was something familiar about the a/u story that I just suggested to Vonnie. I've just skimmed SE again and found "my" suggestion already described in your letter. I plead unconscious plagiarism! Never try to write a letter at four in the morning. I agree with your view on films vs. novelizations. The films are "canon" and I won't base an argument on passages from the books. I'll speculate on those passages and I'll usually accept the statements as "true" for my private SW universe, but I don't expect others to accept the novelizations as "fact". I have the same view of the Han and Lando novels.

Chris Callahan: I know what you mean about the urge to say that Yoda is "only human!" And I know what you mean about copycat novels. There's a new one (I've already forgotten the title) that seems to be trying to present Han Solo under a different name. I flipped through it and did what I usually do with obvious copycats--I put it back on the shelf and moved on. There are probably a number of good, original novels on those sf/fantasy shelves, but I don't always have time and energy to sift through all the crappola to find them.

Lisa Thomas: It's hard to spread the word about SW zinefandom. About a year ago, I spotted a letter in a "Dear Abby" type column from a 15-year-old SW fan who felt "very isolated". The columnist urged her to seek out other SW fans. Hoping to help, I wrote to the column and included SE's address. The columnist altered my letter, even adding a passage I hadn't written, and failed to print my address or SE's. Fortunately, STARLOG has been printing zine info and hopefully isolated fans will spot the fan zine-oriented pages.

Equal Treatment

Barbara Gardner
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October 10, 1986

Greetings!

Ming Wathne: For a neo-neo to letterzines, you certainly did just fine! Interesting point about clones losing the learning power of children.

Lisa Thomas: FIRST letter?! HA! Don't make me laugh! And who put you in charge of our complaint department, anyway? (You know, if we really worked on this between issues, we could probably come up with some good complaints to frustrate Cheree with...)

Cheree: That reminds me--my letter was longer than Lisa's and she got a title! Unfair! Favoritism! ((Ed: Long's got nothing to do with it. It's all in how a letter falls in the final layout.

Besides, if you'll notice, you got a title this time!))

Back to Lisa: (Congratulations! You certainly were a pain in the ectoplasm long enough!) WHAT anti-Ewok zine?? Grrr... Have you ever played the ROTJ arcade game? I almost went insane on that one. First you have to fly through the Endor forest on a speeder bike with Ewok traps and AT-ST's. Then you have to fly the Falcon into the Death Star and blow it up. Then you have to drive (?) an AT-ST through that darndable forest with logs rolling down hills at you and everything. Alleged schizophrenia? Alleged? Ha!

You got Luke again, Lisa! I think there's a conspiracy between you and Cheree here. I didn't even get my "friends" this time.

Cheree: I want Vader!

Marlene: On the subject of music and cars for the characters, how about Madonna's "Papa Don't Preach" for a theme song for Luke's mother? (You're a music expert, LAT, so I'm sure you know the words. What do you think?)

I agree with your comments about REVENGE OF THE SITH. I especially liked that illo of Luke holding young Anakin and wearing the white shirt over his black tunic. (In my opinion, though, that illo should have been placed with Luke's remembrance of Anakin's dream about Vader.)

Kerri Smithline: Are you another non-novel type? (*Smile*) In the ROTJ novelization, Jabba simply didn't believe that Luke was a Jedi. Even after Luke arrived and showed a bit of his talent for controlling Fortuna, Jabba's comment was, "Your mind powers will not work on me, boy. I am not affected by your human thought pattern...I was killing your kind when being a Jedi meant something."

Maybe Luke didn't sense the Wampa because he was too busy concentrating on the fallen meteorite that was smoking on the horizon.

I always assumed that the Jedi purge lasted a few years because Ben said that Vader "helped the Empire hunt down and destroy the Jedi Knights."

Matthew Whitney: I chose to take Algebra in 8th grade. Nobody's ever forced education on me. Everyone's always complained that I overload my schedule too much and stretch myself too thin.

Does anybody out there know of a Palpatine fan? I have a Luke-fan friend who was going to write to SE as a Brainburn fan just to see what the reaction would be. She changed her mind after I all but wrung her neck and threatened to get Vader after her.

Lin Ward: If only Jedi Masters can come back, does that mean that Anakin was a Master? (OOO! That's interesting! Everyone's always wondering if he was a Jedi or an apprentice when he fell, but what if he was a Master?)

As far as I'm concerned, the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights isn't worth the stamps. I wrote to the President, Jill Flamewind, last winter and didn't get a reply until late spring. And then it wasn't even her that replied--it was one of her underlings. So I sent in my membership dues anyway (in April) and never heard another word since. I've written twice, asking if they ever received my dues, but no answer. I also have a pen pal in Texas who joined about the same time I tried to, and she said all they do is gossip about each other in the newsletters, and that there's hardly anything in them about SW.

Vonnie Fleming: Sorry! I hadn't looked at DV's death quite from that PoV before. And now that you pointed it out, I'm somewhat embarrassed

about my comments in #12. I never meant to imply that Darthie wasn't courageous.

Darth: Please accept my sincerest apologies, my Lord.

Back to Vonnie: I'm still crying over Darth's Passing, and it's all Lisa Thomas' fault! (Yes, your fault, Lisa!) She sent me her tape of THE STAR WARS TRILOGY. It has several themes on it which are not included on the individual soundtracks. One of them is "Darth Vader's Death". I couldn't help but cry again when I heard my Lord's powerful, majestic theme played on flutes and harps.

Isn't Ronda Henderson the evil sort? You wouldn't believe what she told me her personal opinion of Luke is!

Ronda: No, Ronee, I won't betray you to the Cathedral of Luke. Just remember that I'm an honorary member of that Cathedral! (And my previously mentioned Luke-fan friend is uttering several somewhat deadly threats in your direction at the moment...)

Alright. It was you who kidnapped that black-armored package, wasn't it? Give the rest of us a chance, will ya? Wait your turn! (After reading EBONY FIRE, I know it was you... *shiver*)

Tim Blaes: The other night I dreamt I met you at a convention. And we immediately started arguing about everything...

'Till next time, remember: Jedi do it Forcefully, but Sithlords do it in the Dark!

Hectic

Mary Keever
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October 20, 1986

Hello--looks like I am almost a candidate for the under the wire award this time. Life just keeps getting hecticer and hecticer!

Since the holidays are upon us, I want to wish everyone happy and safe holidays. Have fun.

Margie Abadie: Really enjoyed your letter on the DUNE/SW connection. Lots of great thoughts and ideas. I agree that DUNE (the movie) lacked humor. I loved the movie but it was definitely lacking an element of humor.

Carole Regine: I had never even seen the parallel between Ben and Vader. Wow. Thanks for opening my eyes. They are both very much alike!

And I think Luke would Act on Instinct. But, oh, how I'd love to give him lessons. (hee, hee, hee)

Lisa Thomas: How many times do I have to tell you, WHAT REP?? I am in total agreement on the helmet business. I think it was foreshadowing that DV was Luke's father. That scene is one of my fave's from EMPIRE.

Chris Callahan: I thought ALIENS was fantastic. A great movie with a fabulous female lead. Not a crying wimp but a strong woman. Love it!! Also, how about that big mama-sized Alien?? The

sfx were fantastic!

I really enjoyed LABYRINTH, too. Bowie was fantastic, not to mention sexy!! What that guy does to a pair of tights!

Well, that about raps it up this time. Sorry this is so short, but supper time is over!

Licentious Luke fans unite!!!!

Easy Reading

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October 21, 1986

I thought a little more about those suggestions for a modern-day vehicle for Luke Skywalker and decided that none of them were appropriate. Consider: Luke may be a naive farmboy in ANH, but he's a naive farmboy passionately fond of what you might call high-performance flying--and he has some experience at it. But unlike Han, he doesn't seem to care that much for the mechanical end of flying, so he's not likely to want a machine he has to modify himself. I see Luke in something like a Datsun 280Z or a Mazda RX7--not too expensive, not really a "macho" car, and reliable enough not to have to be repaired every month, but capable of great speed and pyrotechnics without extensive modification. The little silver-grey Mercedes, yes, if it were a little silver-grey Mercedes 450 SL!

Who would write SW pro novels if any more are planned? How about Diane Duane? She's an excellent writer and she is extremely fond of SW; she wrote a wonderful piece of fan fiction that appeared in GUARDIAN 6 (I think). I'd also vote for Ellen Randolph; not only has she written excellent fan fiction, she had published professionally (admittedly, her pro publication is a romance, but something is better than nothing in these cases). Then there's Maggie Nowakowska (I'd better mention her!); she'd do a good job on first trilogy novels, as she's already written in that period in LAST SANCTUARY.

Marlene Karkoska better watch out. Lots of us started out like her--quiet and shy in person, but Big Mouth Fans on paper--and ended up as Big Mouth Fans in person, too. Let's face it, most fans are pretty opinionated, especially those of us who write regularly to letterzines. All we need is a little confidence that people will listen to (or put up with) our opinions, and we start dispensing them in person as well as in writing.

Some short comments on Maggie's letter: it's probably not her imagination that makes shorter paragraphs seem easier to read. Research into the physical aspects of readability reveals that shorter paragraphs are more readable. I can't remember the exact number of lines considered optimum; it depends on type size and line spacing anyway. The research also reveals which line lengths are easiest to read (55 characters maximum at 10 point, more or less for bigger or smaller type sizes), which type sizes (9 through 11), which leading (2 points extra for 9 through 11, solid above that), and what kind of

type (serif for long passages).

The "close the blast doors" sequence: I also saw different versions of that sequence at different times. I remember being told that the scene was edited differently in the 35mm and 70mm prints, and the reason most people remember their first viewings as being different from later ones is that only 70mm prints were out for the first month of ANH's release. It seems to me that I have at some time seen the alternative versions of Kenobi's entrance in ANH that Maggie describes, but I don't remember it clearly.

How about "sapient" instead of "sentient" as a generic term for intelligent beings? The problem with "sentient" is that it actually means "(ones who are) feeling"; all mammals, and maybe members of other orders, are sentient, but most are not sapient (thinking). (Of course, "sapient" means something more like "possessing wisdom", and there is good reason to doubt whether it's appropriate for human beings.)

Matt mentions the ambiguities of references to Anakin as both pupil and Jedi. Aside from the explanation he gives (teachers tend to think of their students as students forever), there's the example from Eastern martial arts. One always has a sensei, a master or teacher, even after one has become a sensei to other learners. One's relationship to one's sensei is always that of pupil to master, and vice versa. I suspect something of this sort is working in the SW movies, given that part of its background is Eastern by Lucas' own admission. Viz. Obi-Wan, who refers to Yoda as his master and is still deferential toward him. One of Darth Vader's "sins", perhaps, is that he abrogates the proper relationship of pupil to master by claiming to have reversed the relationship between himself/Anakin and Obi-Wan. The fact that he claims to be the master now is prima facie evidence that he isn't.

Two comments on Lucasfilm and then I will try not to make any more. First, Lucasfilm never tried to shut down fandom or prevent the publication of fanzines; they did try to prevent the publication of R- or X-rated fan fiction. True, they never gave carte blanche to all comers--as Matt pointed out, that would have been cutting their own throats--but in the first year after ANH came out, they verbally assured us that fanzines were OK, even encouraged them, though they were reluctant to put anything in writing, and they defended fans and fanzines to 20th Century Fox when Fox wanted to prohibit fanzines outright. (GL did not then, and may not still, own all rights to ANH.) "They," in this case, were Craig Miller and especially Gary Kurtz, producer of ANH, who personally explained fanzines to Fox. (I know about all this, by the way, because the fanzine in question was SKYWALKER 1; had anybody been the test case for the legal wrath of Fox over fanzines, it would have been me.)

Second, it was not only the OSWFC that was eliminated at Lucasfilm this year, it was all the administrative and support functions, up to and including Sidney Ganis' position as Senior VP for Public Relations, etc. It was Sidney's firing, in fact, that spelled the end of the fan club, because he had been its main protector to the Higher Ups even after it went into the red as membership declined.

Margie's analysis of the DUNE books was interesting, especially her comments about their theme. I read only the first two and part of the third, being highly unimpressed with the quality of the later ones. I have my own opinion of why DUNE

flopped at the box office--it was a lousy movie. It wasn't simply the intense solemnity and lack of humor Margie cites, it was the disjointed story (the viewer shouldn't have to fill in the missing scenes and dialog, as Margie--and I--did), meat-cleaver editing, and poor pacing. I agree with Margie that it's hard to make a sensible movie from a book in many cases; this is particularly true in the case of SF novels, which tend to be intellectual and static rather than visual and active as a movie must be. This is why I would rather see original SF movies than adaptations of SF novels. ((Ed: I've thought a lot about why I didn't like DUNE and one thing that struck me is that it's such a visually unattractive movie. All those blacks and darks repulse my mind's eye. The Harkonnens are needlessly grotesque. The costumes and sets/ships are uninteresting. And, besides all that Bev cites, all those darn "thoughts" intruding every few seconds irritated me no end. Plus, the overriding fact that the movie just didn't make any sense. After my husband and I had seen it for the first time, we just sat silent for a few minutes then looked at each other. I thought that I was stupid because I didn't understand a single thing that had happened, until I saw in Randy's expression that he was as mystified as I was. Since then, with multiple viewings, we pretty well have the gist of the it, but it still takes concentration to follow the storyline.))

As for why Frank Herbert was put out with the success of SW: one reason was that he did feel, rightly or wrongly, that SW borrowed heavily from DUNE without crediting its source. He said as much at a convention in 1977 (Octocon, held in Santa Rosa, California, October 1977), and, as was reported in an issue of SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW, considering suing GL for plagiarism. Margie's speculation about Herbert's frustration may or may not be valid; obviously we can't know. The problem is that it would have been an invalid objection to SW: it would have been first a misunderstanding of what SW was about, and second a misplaced belief that everyone ought to have the same opinions on important subjects--preferably one's own opinions. SW does not have the same themes as DUNE; it was never intended to. Luke is not an analog to Paul Atriedes; his dilemma does not involve power over others or leadership, let alone messiahship. Anakin's and/or the Emperor's stories might involve those issues, as might Luke's future life. If they do, or if the SW movies had been about those things, GL is still not required to share Frank Herbert's opinions on the subjects.

While I'm here, I might as well talk about SF some more, in response to Chris Callahan's letter. I started reading SF about 8 years after Chris did, in the early 1960s, but I came to it from an interest I already had in astronomy, geology, and archaeology (my first ambition, when I was 7 years old, was to be an astronomer). My first authors were also Heinlein and Norton, as well as the writers of the Winston Juvenile series. Everything I read had a scientific or pseudo-scientific basis; I didn't start reading fantasy, except fairy tale collections, until I was in high school, and this experience colors my preferences to this day. For instance, I agree with Chris that too often fantasy is written, or seems to be written, by people who figure it's easier than SF because they can make up everything. I realize that this is not necessarily an accurate perception, and I try to guard against it. But deep down, I keep feeling it.

Another thing I share with Chris is memory of a time when reading SF, let alone having an interest in science, was considered inappropriate for a girl. It didn't stop me, but it might have stopped a lot of girls from discovering SF. You had to like science 25 years ago to like SF, and you had to be able to empathize with male characters, because there were precious few female characters of any sort. One of the things that may be different about us is that I still prefer scientific SF to the supposedly character-oriented SF more commonly written by women, in general. I'll take Greg Benford over Anne McCaffrey anyday, for instance. (Not that I disdain good characterization. Benford, for instance, is excellent at characterization, it's just I want the story to be about something in addition to characterization, but he's also excellent in scientific background.) But I think that's an unusual reaction, though perhaps more in line with that of a femme fan 30 years ago. Most of the women writing SF do write character-oriented fiction, most of the women who read SF seem to prefer it, and it was very likely the dramatic rise in that sort of SF in the late 1960s, after ST, that led to an increase in the number of female readers and writers in a kind of feedback loop.

Fantasizing myself into SW: I've done it, though I haven't written any of the stories. It's not the being at war that I can't visualize, though. In fact, fantasizing myself into SW is a "safe" way of exploring how I might, or might like to, react if I were involved in a war. My problem is that I don't consider myself up to the caliber of the people SW is about, and I feel like a fool imagining me in their world. A me that fits into that world feels like I'm indulging in wish fulfillment. And even in wish fulfillment, I refuse to imagine myself in the SW universe solely as a romantic partner for someone; I want to be an active part of the important events. That's where I don't feel adequate.

Lisa Thomas suggests several interpretations of the scene in TESB where Luke sees his own face in Vader's helmet. I suggest that they're all good interpretations of that scene. It doesn't have to have just one meaning; in fact, a sign that the scene works well is that it is subject to a variety of interpretations, and all of them fit.

When Vader amputates Luke's hand in the duel in TESB, I don't think he intended to. Nor do I think he miscalculated in the strict sense. That is, yes, he did apply an inordinate amount of force to the slice of the lightsaber, and yes, maybe the direction of the slice was not what he might have wanted. But "miscalculation" implies "calculation", which implies logic and intelligent planning. At that point in the duel, imho, Vader had lost his normal control in the Force and was simply pissed off at Luke for getting through to him. He was demonstrating graphically the effects of letting Dark Side emotions take over, as Luke was to do in ROTJ when he lets his anger at Vader's reference to his sister control him for a while. Vader had the raw intelligence and enough control left to try to take advantage of Luke's vulnerability after losing his hand in the duel, but he underestimates Luke's control.



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October 23, 1986

Lin Ward: Just a thought about Jedi transcendence. We all know how expensive it is to hire a cast of thousands, but wouldn't it have been glorious to have all the Jedi of the past gradually "sparkle" in behind Anakin, Ben and Yoda in the celebration on Endor? That would have shown the poignancy of Luke's bittersweet triumph over Palpatine. However, I don't think Luke can see any other Jedi except Anakin, Yoda and Ben. Yoda said that through the Force you could see "other places, the future, the past, old friends long gone". Perhaps he meant you could only see people you had actually met while they were living. Luke has personally known three living Jedi. Perhaps you can communicate only with someone who lives in your memory.

And another thought for what it's worth. Do we have any oral or written testimony that there was a Dark Force before Palpatine became Emperor? I don't mean the personal capacity for evil that lurks in each of us. I mean the Dark Side as a Force. Without doing any research, I am trying to recall if anyone ever mentioned the Sith existing in the Old Republic. Did Palpatine create the Sith (whatever it is), and was he the first to tap directly into the Dark Force? If so, that would explain why the Jedi who had kept the peace for a thousand generations were destroyed practically overnight by only two Force wielders.

Ideologies

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October 23, 1986

Margie Abadie: I say the following very reluctantly because I don't want to annoy and alienate people, but I simply can't stay silent. If I made wholesale cultural judgments based on the top selling posters (not to mention films and TV shows) in the U.S. (i.e., RAMBO, A-TEAM, HALLOWEEN Part 105), I could say that Americans are a very violent, vengeful and petulant people with "no sense of humor." That's a ludicrous and offensive generalization, just as your contention that the entire Middle East--made up of over 25 countries, hundreds if not thousands of tribes, a millenia-long history of rich, inspiring and entertaining culture, whose people have learned to tolerate enormous hardships with subtle, complex and rich humor--"has no sense of humor" based on a supposed top-selling poster in Libya (and probably exposure to the plethora of skewed, violent images spewed forth from our "objective" mass media), was insulting and patently inaccurate. The hours I have spent with friends from Egypt, Kuwait, Iran, Libya, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon and Gaza have been ones filled with joy and

laughter. Your words hurt me in my regard for them and their civilization.

Maggie: Thanks for the compliments on my reviews. It's been an education. Fanzines are harder to review than films, books or plays. As for SW being "Reagan-era", I'm open to debate on this because I'm not all that certain about it actually. I don't believe SW would've made it in the 60's, tho. I see your point about some of SW's themes coinciding with those of the 60's. One theme you didn't pick up on that was part of a lot of 60's culture was "humanizing the enemy." How does SW fit? Vader turned into good ol' Anakin, didn't he? Still, the saga is still very much a "good vs. evil" story, and the lasting images for the general public are those of violent space battles, good guys vs. bad guys, everyone in their neat little pigeon holes, which is very definitely Reagan-era. I agree with you entirely about Spielberg. I have many criticisms of GL, but I don't ignore his work. With Spielberg, I can't be bothered. "Button-pushing" is exactly right, Maggie, which is also very definitely Reagan-era.

Concerning your speculations about the Republic --that perhaps there was no real "control" and that what brought it down was a desire for such control --you posit an excellent, intelligent and quite probable historical scenario of why and how the Empire came about and would willingly accept it as the "official" analysis by galactic historians and political scientists. The iconoclast in me doesn't accept your pro-Republican assumptions, tho. Your characterization of the OR, for me, is based on an ideal ("a network with various planets and systems", "cooperative exchanges with the broad restrictions of congenial congress", etc.). My disagreement with your scenario stems from your assumption that revolt against the Republic would only originate from some element wanting to gain personal profit. When I say conflict stems from the desire for material gain, I do not necessarily mean that those in revolt are out merely for personal aggrandizement--that puts the rebellious elements always on the "bad side" and the system they're challenging on the "good side." To the contrary, armed rebellion against an established order stems from that entrenched system's concentration of economic and political power, it's systemic deprivation of other societal elements. Rather than some "malcontents" wanting to grab "that brass ring of authority on a universal scale," as Maggie puts it, I see the revolt against the OR as a legitimate response to a system that had increasingly become stagnant and intolerable to many, tho not all. Maggie's scenario views this rebellion as a "monkey wrench", yet revolts are a natural, inevitable part of history. I accept that perhaps the OR did once have in-built flexibility but in its late stages, the OR obviously lost that self-sustaining mechanism. All political systems, even the most tyrannical, survive through their ability to co-opt a substantial number of those who live under them, and by reforming just enough to deflate the more radical dissidents. When a system collapses, it has lost that ability. The more a system becomes exclusive, the more unstable it becomes (and remember that people will tolerate a great deal of injustice for a very long time before actually doing something to even reform it, let alone destroy it). For the OR to have lasted as long as it did, obviously it had enormous flexibility and gave its galactic subjects a lot of room to maneuver. For a system as flexible and self-reforming as that of the OR, the problems must have

been serious indeed to foster a powerful and successful revolt. The OR must have lost nearly all of its room for accommodation, even for members of the elite. My scenario holds that legitimate discontent (and apathy, which is usually a necessary component for any revolt to succeed) toward the OR was widespread, and that diverse groups banded together to eliminate it (or perhaps fought their own separate fronts against the OR). But struggle does not end after victory--in fact, that's when real struggle begins--and what eventually became the Empire is not what many of those original dissidents planned for. I wouldn't be surprised if many who originally participated in the struggle against the OR ultimately joined the Alliance in its battle against the Empire. And now there will be a new struggle between these different groups with their own vision of what the new order should be. The galaxy in SW appears to me to be in for a long (and I do mean long) transition phase. For so long the galaxy held together by a very strong system (the OR). The collapse of such a cohesive, stable system can only lead to years, maybe centuries, of more confusion as the galaxy tries to find a new arrangement. The Empire to me does not seem to have lasted very long, which means it does not appear to have had much time to stabilize itself. In other words, the OR is still in the process of collapse. The Empire appears to be merely an extension of the OR, whose institutions are still largely intact. No system as long-lasting as the OR goes away very quickly, or easily. There is always continuity. Imperial power became far too concentrated in the Emperor in the Empire's later years, and any system that depends so heavily on one figure is inherently weak. Having come directly after the initial struggle against the OR, the Empire is the first phase of the collapse of the OR, and is therefore, the closest to the OR in character. The next phase will probably be a series of wars, and probably some new conglomeration of a "government" will emerge from that. I doubt that will be the end of it. The Roman Republic/Empire lasted quite a long time (and not as long as the OR, nor was it as far-reaching), and you know what came after its collapse: a long period of constant war in some places, and not so much in others (just localized peace).

Mary Urhausen: A thousand thank yous for your comments regarding Tim Blaes' condescending and sexist "nicknames" for we female fans (he never refers to male fans like this). Last issue he called me "sister" and it's getting harder and harder to ignore. Glad my letter got you excited, and I liked your argument: "Tarnishing a little too widely with your brush" is an accurate statement. I constantly go back and forth between absolute frustration with and contempt for the ignorance and indifference of the American public, and profound admiration for those Americans who, as you said, "know what it means to be a citizen of the world". Indeed, those are the people whose company I generally keep. Unfortunately, extreme reactions tend to provoke like-minded responses. When Tim says something patently chauvinistic and ludicrous like "our media is the best in the world," what do you expect someone like me to do? In that one sentence, Tim totally excludes the overwhelming majority of human communications on purely nationalistic grounds. Tim doesn't argue from concrete knowledge, he argues from prejudice. The only way a person can make such a sweeping statement and elicit tolerance from me is if that person has spent years exposing

him or herself to not only the media of other countries, but to the excellent work being done right here in the US' own alternate media (and he wouldn't make his baseless claim after having done all that). Tim's not even interested in reading his own country's alternate voices, let alone that of other countries. I've spent years in media studies, following UN debates on international communications, reading mainstream and alternative media in the US, Latin America, Western and Eastern Europe, the USSR, Canada and the Middle East. I've learned to keep myself informed by not limiting myself to the established US press. The result is that when I do sit down to watch the evening news or read the mainstream newspapers and magazines, I read and watch knowing more than what I'm being told. I know what is being selectively omitted, what is being distorted, and what is an outright lie. And I am constantly aware before the established press is. I was with a bunch of friends one night at the time some of the first stories about the African famine "broke". We just sat there, feeling frustrated because we'd been reading about it since at least 1977, and we knew much more about it than the press obviously did. I wish I had a penny for each time I've watched a newscast that was being reported with great urgency because it had just "broke", and I've sat there utterly bored because I already knew all about it, and I knew much more than I was being told. So when I see people like Tim say he relies on the established media to find out "what's happening", I can't help but laugh. (I know I can be accused of elitism, but I tend to agree in part with Isaac Asimov when he professes that he cannot put all opinions on the same level. We're all entitled to our opinions--but there are opinions, and there are informed opinions.)

As to objectivity and all that--yes to Barbara Brayton's question (and she reworded my point quite well). The media does definitely have an ideological slant. There are only various kinds of subjective truth. And the best way one can ascertain any ideological prejudice, wherever and whoever may be expressing it, is if you are outside that ideology. Now everyone follows an ideology, yes, even people who consider themselves "moderate." There's no way you can get away from ideological imprinting. An ideology is merely a set of ideas rooted in a particular society that amounts to accepted values about how people should live politically, socially, religiously, morally, personally, etc. Some reject the ideology they've been taught in part or in toto when they grow up, others accept it in part or in toto. To believe in an ideology does not automatically mean to be dogmatic or inflexible. And it's not easy to analyze and be critical of your own values. But it is quite easy to recognize a perspective whose parameters of argumentation and assumptions do not match your own, in part or in toto. Just because I keep saying there's no such thing as objectivity doesn't mean it can't be attempted. As Tim says, objectivity is a direction, not a destination. But Tim really believes the established US press honestly tries for this destination--it may err on the way, but it is largely reliable in this respect. For people who study the media, of whatever political stripe, this has long been accepted as purely fiction. Since Tim basically adheres to the established media's own ideological framework of argumentation and reporting, and since he is unfamiliar with other ways of presenting news, he sees nothing inherently wrong with the job it does. But to those who do not accept the authority of the

US press consistently note the double standard, the selective inclusion and omission of facts and opinion--all of this is inherent, as it is of every press. Tim says he doesn't want to read someone's opinion as news, yet that's what he reads and watches all the time--all news is opinion. Here, Tim verbalizes the outworn myth about "facts", as if all a reporter does is simply pick them up off the street like little jewels and puts them together in a coherent mix and repeats them, like a computer. Editors, reporters, broadcasters must all make selective decisions every second about what to cover and not cover, what to emphasize and ignore, what to ask and not ask, what to investigate and not investigate (and very little of that is done), how to approach what does get covered, what labels and sources to use. These are all very human decisions constantly being made, based on all sorts of prejudices (economic, political, time limits, etc.).

When I have used the established press as my primary source of news for a story, and later have done some separate research on the subject, I've always discovered how pathetically inadequate my original source was. But as I say, all media have their own prejudices. What makes the established US press a special target for attack is that, unlike others, it is incredibly ignorant and naive about its own overall loyalties and biases. In other countries, and in the US alternative press, you have a wide variety of printed sources to choose from--you get a different slant on each story. These sources are openly known and accepted as belonging to a particular kind of thought. All variations in-between exist, and in many foreign cities you have as many as 300 dailies operating. You have voices from all sectors of opinion with their own news organ, each making their own decisions about what to cover and how to cover it, based on their own journalistic, political and moral philosophies. That is the only way you can consume news intelligently, by exposing yourself to how others are reporting the same story through their own voice, not second-hand. Otherwise, you merely form opinions based on one press' prejudices, which makes you very poorly informed, as Tim himself demonstrated when he made some purely factual errors in his comments a few issues back concerning El Salvador. And when he says that the reason Colombians consume so much of our own culture and media is that "we must be doing something right" (well, sure, American pop culture can be very entertaining), he is betraying his own lack of knowledge about the economically unequal and coercive structure of international communications. So, yes, Barbara, my point is that either the established US press should honestly try for objectivity (which would require fundamental self-examination) or drop its pretenses, since it already does have an ideological slant (known in the field simply as "cold war liberalism").

End of tirade.

Bev Clark: You're a braver soul than I am, Gunga Din. I've been feeling the same way about the effort to nominate UT for a Hugo, but have been afraid to voice it. I love UT, but I feel that a zine like GUARDIAN or KESSEL RUN would be a more appropriate choice. I have felt, however, for a very long time, that it's about time media fandom start rewarding all those zineds who put out letterzines/information zines like UT, SOUTHERN ENCLAVE (my first choice), DATAZINE, INTERSTAT, etc. These zines are fandom's voices.

To all those who have complimented my piece in SITH YEARBOOK, "The Ideology of Balance," I thank

you. It was my first SW piece, and I discovered that I was right--the SW universe is incredibly flexible, malleable, and open to all sorts of visions.

Chris Callahan: Loved your discussion on LABYRINTH. I enjoyed it too, tho I was hoping that Bowie (who I've loved and lusted for since I was 14) would appear at the end as some regular human "guy next door" in the real world. (Didn't you feel the hint of sexual tension between Sara and the Goblin King?) You're absolutely correct about the sexism in the treatment of this film by the critics, male and female. Reminds me of the reaction to Rob Reiner's recent film STAND BY ME, which probably deserved all the praise it got, but can you ever imagine a similar film being done with only little girls? And if it was done, do you think it would get the same respect being heaped on Reiner's film? As for the ending of LABYRINTH, you're right of course, but I'm the sentimental type. I want to have my fantasies too--so I liked the ending.

Regarding the discussion on the rights of artists, I'm definitely in the minority. In the pro world, I agree with copyright law, which defines a creator's rights as only extending to exclusive control of profits. That's why I never took seriously LFL's attempts to intimidate fandom and control zine content. There'd be no legal force to back it up. However, if LFL ever came down on those few fans who profit from their zines, I'd be fully in agreement with their position. I've always found it interesting that fandom turns a blind eye to those fans who profit from zine publishing (and they do exist--I've seen and heard actual proof), but hollers all over the place when fans publish stories they or LFL consider offensive. A personal friend of mine who publishes a very good zine (not SW) has registered herself with the IRS as a small business. She was quite open about it, saying, "Yeah, I got the idea after talking to a lot of zine editors at a couple of cons." Of course, the artists, writers, poets and everyone else who has input in her zine never see a penny of the tidy little profit she makes. Not only is her activity infringement on legal copyright owners, but it is artistic theft and exploitation, not to mention illegal. I know that it is much more common to lose money on zine publishing than the opposite (I myself have just started experiencing that with my own little letterzine, POWER OF SPEECH, for which I've had to charge a ridiculous price and still can't break even). But I do know that far more offensive than what fans do get upset about--the supposed "moral" rights of pro artists. Matthew Whitney asks that we give GL the same consideration that we give each other. But I simply can't put pro and fan art on the same level. Once a work of art has been disseminated to the public and all legal copyrights and trademarks registered, it is "mine" (if I like it) to appreciate in the way that I wish, and no one has the right (legal or moral) to stop me, unless I begin profitting from that appreciation. For fans, however, I do think people should ask permission to use characters and ideas from other fans' writings. I consider that a moral duty because we are not pro, after all. Yet in both the fan and pro art world, an artist will sometimes create something so universal in nature, so widely accepted, that we forget who originated it. Indeed, the identity of the creator loses its significance because it has become part of the general culture. This happened in ST fandom with Kraith, with many

fans writing stories that made mention of purely Kraithian ideas as if they were canon. GL's attempts to monopolize ownership of the SW trademark is a good example of an artist's inherent limits to control his/her work. Once something has become an entrenched part of the culture, I don't believe the originator has anymore rights to it. GL's massive artistic ego made him launch on a rather silly and futile lawsuit to maintain hegemony over a phrase that, simply through cultural assimilation, was no longer his anyway, if it ever really was. I don't believe there are absolute boundaries of artistic control, and anyway GL should be flattered that his invention has become so deeply rooted in American culture. That's a risk artists take when they turn pro. If you want to make something you create popular, then you take the risk of losing some control of what you have created. If what you have created has enormous cultural impact, people will feel free to use it in the manner they wish. And that's as it should be. An artist creates for an audience, not him or herself. Once you make the decision to share your art, even in fandom, you are giving up part of it. That's a natural, human occurrence that no law can stop. All the law can do it assure your monopoly over profit.

Hey, Cheree, liked your discussion concerning religious fundamentalists. It's not only Christianity nor just in the US that you're seeing the rise of religious fundamentalism. All the world's religions in various parts of the globe are experiencing the same phenomenon. I have a particular gripe with right-wing fundamentalist protestant churches who go to Central America and get involved in the region's political turmoil, to the point of giving monetary support to dictatorships. Doing the Lord's work has become playing the devil's game.

Keep that interesting, civilized discussion coming!

Movie Star

Sally Smith
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October 27, 1986

My, how time flies when you're having (or not) fun. Not quite Under-the-Wire, but getting there.

First, THANKS to Maggie and gang for rescuing all the zines and starting the Library. To think that my baby was going to be "terminated"--aaugh! Makes my skin crawl.

Yes, indeedy, gentlefen, that was my lil' ol' zine mentioned in STARLOG #111, and the orders have been coming in thick and fast. Of course, none of these people know to send SASE's, but what the heck, I need the money. Point of interest about something I mentioned many issues back: most of the inquiries/orders have been from males. So where've they been hiding, eh? Courage, Tim and Matt, we may have reinforcements for you yet! Lots of them are from Texas, too.

I've heard an unsubstantiated rumor of a SW con next year, similar to the ST 20th anniversary. Anybody else know anything?

Sincerest apologies to all I owe letters to; I've never been this far behind in my correspondence, but there's a first time for everything.

Hi to all the SW types I met at Worldcon (mostly in the huckster's room, oddly enough, wonder why?). Be warned, I have not forgotten who promised me stories or art! Oh, at next year's NASFIC, I'm supposed to be helping with the HF panel, so if you've got any ideas let me know (but I'm not a Fordfan, how do I get roped into these things?).

Also, I am hereby applying for the fannish "copyright" on a costume I did at a recent con and will be doing at Phoenix, so if you see it elsewhere, remember: I did it first. The costume is "Jedi Vice" (half ROTJ outfit, half pastels, shades, shoulder holsters, lightsabers, music). It gained us (I'm Luke Crockett, my partner's Princess Tubbs) each a smart-ass remark from David Gerrold, a whoop from the audience, the opportunity to frisk cute guys, \$1.25 in cash, and a free drink. It was a lot of fun. Hey, if they were the guardians of peace and justice in the OR, they must've had a vice squad...

Quick comments:

Ming: I got news for you, the north/south border in Calif. is at San Luis Obispo, so you're in Southern California. And what do you mean, you're far from cons? There are lots in LA. Agreed with you about why Ben didn't tell Luke the truth about his father at first.

Carole: I'm in for S.M.U.T.T.I.!

Mary K: And I'll be there the third Wed. with my black glove!

Maggie: Fanlit as folklore, terrific!

Barb/Pam: Re ROTJ "squashed" on video. It's the only 70mm film I've got on tape that has that problem, so it can't be inherent in the conversion process.

Cheree: None of your business what Jenni, Sandi and I did with the Luke doll. And you certainly don't expect us to tell, do you? Sheesh.

Voicks, it's past my bedtime (I know 'cause David Letterman's on) and I've got biology homework to do and need to work on my scene for acting class (from "Lion in Winter", it's great fun. Wish there were more SF plays). Final note: if you know just where to look and don't blink, I am in fact visible in the last scene of HOWARD THE DUCK. I think that makes me the only person who will admit that in public (I didn't think it was that bad).

Till next time, may the Force be with you no matter where you live long and prosper!

WorldCon

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Did anyone watch the CAPTAIN EO special a couple of months ago? For the most part it was a waste of time, just a bunch of "look at all the Big Stars that showed up at the Captain Eo premiere". In the hour show, there was maybe 20 minutes of interesting material, most of which I had already seen at the Worldcon presentation. But it was worth it for one reason alone; I saw George Lucas without his beard! I didn't recognize him at first. He bears a strong

resemblance to... Are any of you familiar with a cartoon character named "Sniffles the Mouse"?

Confederation was my first WorldCon, and it was a blast. I didn't personally run into any anti-media bigotry, but I suppose I just didn't travel in those circles. There were a lot of familiar faces at the SW panel, it being almost a mini-Media-West. Most of the talk was about "how do we get George off his tush and making SW films again?" Somebody said that we really didn't have the right to demand anything from him, that he is very tired and needs a rest. I could agree with some of that, but as far as I'm concerned, Lucas committed himself when he put "Chapter V" on EMPIRE, and even went back and put "Chapter IV" on STAR WARS. If he hadn't done that, he could have made his three movies and walked, as far as I'm concerned, but he made a larger promise when he put chapters on these movies, and I intend to see that he keeps that promise. But, sure, he can take a year or two off. He needs time to recharge, and I'm not sweating yet.

I hope some of you are up by 10 a.m. Saturday mornings and watch THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS. This stuff is good enough for prime time. Solid stories and the same whack-o sense of humor that the movie had. My favorite episodes so far are "Mrs. Roger's Neighborhood" and "Troll Bridge". I can't wait for "The Collect Call of Cthulhu" and "The Bogeyman Cometh". There is another cartoon, the syndicated ORIGINAL GHOSTBUSTERS. I've finally seen the other show, and I didn't think much of it, though an 8-year-old might like it (it's the one with the gorilla, based loosely on a short-lived live-action GHOSTBUSTERS Saturday morning show, with Forrest Tucker, Larry Storch and a gorilla).

The fannish grapevine is still in working order in these parts. A friend called a friend who called me that ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT said that the new STAR TREK TV show is a go and will be on next season. (I missed ET that night. I was reading the ST comic at the time.) Some information I'm not yet sure of. It's probable that the Fox Broadcasting Network is the one doing it. I was told that Roddenberry will be producing the show again, but in STARLOG #12 Gene said that he would not produce any television again, due to family reasons, so he may be the executive producer. STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION will start out with a two-hour movie, followed by over 20 guaranteed episodes for the first season. I just hope they get D. C. Fontana involved again.

I have no idea what this "Page Six" stuff is about, but I don't think I have much respect for the waitress or the people who printed that "Harrison: Big Tipper" article. It was very snotty.

Margie Abadie: You have some very insightful comments about DUNE and SW. I can remember trying to read it when I was about 14. I didn't get through the first chapter; it was like running full-tilt into a wall of playdough. What it was doing in the "Young Adult" section, I'll never know. I've been told that after the third DUNE book the series became even more strange. Am I correct in assuming that the DUNE books are more Space Fantasy (with Sociology and Ecology incorporated) than Science Fiction?

Carole Regine: Beyond each fan's personal fantasies, does it really matter if Luke is a virgin or not? When I fantasize about Leia, her virginity or lack of same, plays no factor. The Force as a sex aid? I suppose it would be very helpful in such matters, especially in becoming more sensitive to your partner's needs. I can see it now; Luke's

lady love is off slipping into something more comfortable, and he gets cold feet, worried that he'll mess up. Then he hears Ben's voice, "Use the Force, Luke!" and everything works out just fine.

Can I join S.M.U.T.T.I., or is it only for female fans? What sort of initiation do you require?

Lucas said that he would do the other parts of the SW saga only in movie form, and not as books before or in place of those movies. As far as novelizations or original novels go, Vonda McIntyre could do them if she could curb her indulgent streak (ENTERPRISE: THE FIRST VOYAGE was not her best TREK). How about Diane Duane, D. C. Fontana or William Kotzwinkle?

Criticism is a skill that most fans don't have, including myself. Sometimes I can feel in my gut what isn't working in a story, but I can't put it into words. And then, do you really want to tell somebody they did a cruddy job, no matter how tactful you do it? I could have told Diane Carey that I thought that DREADNOUGHT! was an incredibly bad "Mary Sue" story last MediaWest. Instead I just bought a copy at the Con and had her autograph it (I feel very strange about that). The fact that she is a professional author and that her TREK novel sold very well may have had something to do with my reluctance, but I would probably have the same trouble telling another fan writer the same thing.

I read the novelization of WRATH OF KHAN after the first time I saw the movie, and before I saw it the second time I would have sworn I saw Deltans on Regula Station. However, I did see Vader move a glass with the Force after reading the SW novelization. I only saw it once, and I think it only slid across the table.

Lisa Thomas: I'd like to see the ESB arcade game. The SW and JEDI coin-op video games were both excellent and imaginative. About the only video game I play nowadays is GAUNTLET. It's for all practical description a real-time D&D. Some of us have found a GAUNTLET game that is a real sugar-daddy with the "live points". We put \$5 in the machine and played for almost two and a half hours. GAUNTLET II gives you more freedom to choose characters and assemble a group, but for the most part it's too complicated.

Mary Keever: The Truth In Letterzine laws will not permit me to allow you to call me "studmuffins". Sorry.

Maggie Nowakowska: Immigrant Americans' opinions of JEDI? That sounds interesting; can you tell me more about that?

I also have a high regard for Sandra Necchi's reviews and Locs. She is, I think, SE's most valuable contributor. She seems to have stopped writing reviews and apparently sends a LoC only every other issue, and that's regrettable. Other things must be taking up her time, such as school and her letterzine, POWER OF SPEECH. ((Ed: Actually, Sandra has been in and out of the country on extended journalistic/research trips. She is currently in Brazil.)) Speaking of PoS, every ST and BLAKE'S 7 fan in earshot should check it out and send a LoC to her right away. Last I checked, she was short on LoCs.

Matthew Whitney: Didn't you mention something awhile back about Elvis? After seeing "The Once and Future King" on TWILIGHT ZONE, it started me thinking. Can you picture alien Elvis impersonators? Like Hokas, ALIENS, assorted BEMs, and maybe even a short, green, swamp dwelling curmudgeon. ((Ed: One of the funniest cartoons I ever saw in a magazine was of a flying saucer sitting in a clear-

ing one night. Outside were lined up about 50 or 60 Adolf Hitlers, being addressed by a BEM: "Fellow Martians, we have disguised you as the perfect replica of a human we captured forty years ago. Now--go and infiltrate!")

Dr. Mary Urhausen: I had something to say to Cheree, and Cheree replied. Your comments were abusive, redundant, and purely gratuitous. \$4.00 is not "paltry" to me, and I take this letterzine very seriously. I expect standards of quality and ethics. "I'm only doing this as a hobby" is a cop-out and a poor excuse for sloppiness.

However, I do not consider Cheree sloppy. The mistakes I mentioned to her should have been off the record, for her eyes only, and it was sloppy of me not to have done that. The only mistake in #13 was my own. But I feel that part of my responsibility as a reader/contributor to SE is to point out mistakes and misprints, and "Well, ex-CUSE me!!!" is not a proper editorial response.

I have been attempting to organize the Hell-guard Social Register, for ST fans of Saavik and Romulans. I found three mistakes in the flyer for the HSR after I had made 300 copies. I'm not sure that any publication I produce can be much better, but I will go on with it. If I go down in flames, then you are invited to dance on my grave, but I have made no comments I should apologize for.

Your last comment to me was nasty and in poor taste. If "sweetcakes" was patronizing to you or anyone else, then that was not my intention, and I think that should have been apparent to you.

Regarding "disinformation" put out by the OSWFC, I remember when it was first rumored that Darth was going to turn out to be Luke's dad in TESB. The Duncan Sisters decided to squash that upsetting rumor flat by asking the OSWFC if it was true or not. "Of course not! Don't be ridiculous!" And if the OSWFC said it wasn't so, the Duncans assured us, then it must not be so. Would they lie to us?

Bev Clark: I remember back when I was in the 4th grade, and I was walking down a hall, and somebody in the men's room said, "Pssst. Over here." With more curiosity than brains, I went into the men's room and found two other students, one taller than me, the other shorter. (I try to remember what they looked like more clearly, and all I can picture in my mind are Darth Vader and Salacious Crumb.) The Tall Kid asked me, "Why is the sky blue?" Because I could say multi-syllable words and knew what they meant, I had the unwelcome reputation as a "brain"/know it all. I had a bad feeling about this, but I started to explain about sunlight refracting through the atmosphere, but he interrupted. "No. The sky is blue because God made it that way." Well, I had no disagreement with that, but the reason it's blue is-- "NO! The sky is blue because GOD Made It That Way!" The Tall Kid seemed to grow another foot, and the Short Kid started grinning from ear to ear. I said, sure, whatever you say, and beat it out of the men's room. You don't have to convince me that these people are dangerous.

Chris Callahan: If Zenna Henderson can call alien beings "People", then I think we can call Yoda "human."

A SF bookstore has opened up in my town, and the owner lucked into an incredibly large cache of first edition SF books and magazines. Included among them are the sort of covers that some of you have been griping about. I may have joked about BEMs with a clothing fetish, but I'll agree that a lot of those old covers were stupid. Some approach

cute, but I'd take Leia and Saavik and Ripley over most of those bimbos any day of the week. There is one old pulp cover that has always intrigued me; a PLANET STORIES with the cover feature, "Black Amazon of Mars" by Leigh Brackett. I've always wanted to read that one.

Really now, what was so bad about the first two SKYRIDER covers? And why did only the first book have a number on the cover?

I think you've won the "longest paragraph" award this issue. I can tell what your favorite movie this year is. A pox on those pin-head reviewers. I saw that LABYRINTH was a coming of age/rite of passage story. I also agree that the ending undermined the story's message about maturity. I really wonder why they did the ending that way. I only caught some of the film's references you mentioned; heck, I didn't even catch the OZ connection. What about the dog Merlin/Ambrosius?

Lin S. Ward: One book on ghosts I've read said that the average "afterlife expectancy" is about 50 years. Ghosts are "perishable", they can't hold themselves together forever. Perhaps the Jedi couldn't hold the "blue screen effect" long enough to do anybody any good. As individuals anyway. There could be some sort of Jedi mass-mind/racial consciousness that he may be able to draw off of if he reaches a certain level.

I typed my Loc in last issue practically at the last moment and some of what I wrote could have used more polish. Hope I do better this time.

HOWARD THE DUCK was much better than I feared it would be, and I'm sorry that it did so badly at the box office. I feel like punching the critics who rejected out of hand a movie about a talking duck! It was a little light on the satire that turned me onto the Duck (no Kidney Lady, no Cosmic Accountant) but it still had the flavor. Hey, if I'd been old enough, I'd have voted Howard the Duck for President in '76. But the All Night Party has shut down, so I suppose I'll have to join the American Meadow Party next election.

It was about midnight at Confederation and I got shanghaied into a SW parody of somebody's. I came in the middle of part one (of four). They were trying to record it at the side of a still noisy convention floor, and they needed male voices for the male parts, so three of us guys ended up playing a cast of thousands. It was a very strange play, with most of the SW characters landing on Earth and attending a SW convention, and Darth & his stormtroopers blast everybody they can at the con, and Luke & Leia & Han take Mark & Carrie & Harrison and everybody who worked on the films to the Rebel Base for their own protection, and George shows STAR WARS and EMPIRE to the Rebels, and almost all of the cast (including Frank Oz who always carried around Miss Piggy) went to Dagobah to do Jedi aerobics, and... It was 3AM when I called it quits, in the middle of part four, and last I knew, Wedge was having a pasta food fight with three earth women.

Vonnie Fleming: Yeah, I know I'm not a lesbian. The round-about point I was trying to make was how can women, be they straight or lesbian or bi-sexual, know what they are writing about when they write "/" fiction? They write Kirk and Spock as if they were two lesbians. That's probably why straight and homosexual men regard K/S with amusement and/or revulsion. I'm not against K/S or any other "/" fiction, I want you to understand. I just think it's weird.

When Vader held Leia back when Alderaan was

blown, it could have been for her own protection, to keep her from doing something stupid.

THE DARK KNIGHT was one, if not the, fastest selling comics in history. It told the story of the Batman who came out of hiding after not having been seen for ten years. On the face of it, it's like no Batman we've ever seen, and yet it is the Batman as we always knew he was. THE DARK KNIGHT is adult, political, and very visual. You could feed Africa for what first, and even second, editions cost, but all four volumes have been collected into one trade paperback. At \$12.95, it's worth it. By the way, you'll meet the third Robin. I think you'll like her.

Superman has been rebuilt from the ground up, starting in THE MAN OF STEEL, also collected in a trade paperback. Some of the reconstruction is fine by me, but I think they based some of it on everything that was bad in the first Superman movie, such as the sterile Krypton. Lex Luthor is no longer a scientific mastermind, now rather a J.R. type business man. Ma & Pa Kent are still alive. I understand that Wonder Woman is also going to be rebuilt.

Hi*Yo Silver, Away...

Gossip

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October 27, 1986

First off, I'd like to introduce a topic that I feel needs some open discussion. That of gossiping and rumor-mongering. In a word, don't. Your gossip could well turn into someone else's rumor. I know of at least 4 different rumors about myself, and I've heard some real juicy stuff about some others. I figure it this way, your friends know that it's garbage, but why should a person whom you don't know personally, and who doesn't personally know you, have to suffer from wanton and often useless gossip and rumormongering? Now I know a lot of you will say, laugh it off and/or ignore it. I agree with you, but let's also try to "let the buck stop here." Yes?

Ming Wathne: About Ben and the EXACT truth. It's like spending \$50.00 on a blouse, and your mother asking you if you spent \$20.00, thinking that that's what you paid. You agree, yes, you did spend \$20.00 on it, you just don't tell her about the other thirty. It's not the EXACT truth, but really not a lie either, right?

Han and the lightsaber--I agree with you that anyone could light it. But if you're not a Jedi, what do you get, a flashlight? Also Han's kind of fear once it's lit and vibrating, judging by his nervous ahhh-ing when he is using it. (In ESB)

A question, Ming--Would Ben have gone to help Leia even if Luke did not want to go with him? What we have here is coincidence and sequence of events.

Granted, Luke fell in love with Leia at first sight and wanted to rescue a maiden (?) in distress, but what if R2 didn't run away to look for Ben and start the whole ball rolling? And speaking of Leia, do you think that Vader could have "seen" the sequence of events and arrested Leia for that reason? I mean, why couldn't he off her when he captured her? Yes, I can see where she'd be a good hostage, but for what? And I can see where Vader would "know" that she wouldn't (or couldn't) talk. Another thing, what happened to the rest of the captured rebels? Were they taken aboard the first Death Star? If so, were they released? When? Did they go up with it? Vader could just as well have interrogated Leia on the blockade runner, and then offed her. He would have gotten the same results, wouldn't he? The same results, except for Luke. It seems to me that Vader was just playing out a part and biding his time until the emperor took part--you see, Vader either couldn't or wouldn't kill ol' brainburn himself, he needed the catalyst (I think that's the right word) of Luke. So, it wasn't R2's innocent investigation, it was Vader's knowing hand (who knows? maybe Vader even programmed the droid to find Kenobi way before Leia even set eyes on him) that started the sequence of events that ended in the killing of the emperor. What Vader had in mind all along.

Carole Regine: I'm really surprised that you don't know how to spell my name considering that we were pen pals, once. (It's spelled K-E-R-R-I). Lovesaber lesson? (Cheree, I thought you were trying to keep this letterzine PG rated. For shame!) About your idea of parallel: Vader may have seen it and realized that Kenobi's destiny might easily become his, and therefore became a little more interested in trying to be a "good" father to his son. He remembered what Kenobi stood for at the moment of Luke's dismemberment. And all these memories came to the fore. Vader did go after his son's tormentor in JEDI, and came up triumphant against said tormentor. I could see a Jedi taking a vow of chastity, the main reason being that with each, uhm, uh, conquest, a Jedi is open. Totally, and can actively become involved in his partner's fears, memories, other experiences, etc. After even two of these liaisons, a Jedi, whether male or female, could and would go certifiably mad.

Here, here, on your answer to Pat Nussman.

One of the crazy things I've noticed among fans who write, and yes, even among those who don't, is that we all have logical rationalized backgrounds for all characters. There are as many different stories behind the stories as there are fen in fandom.

Lisa Thomas: Taking dolls from children? What's this, a new variation on candy from babies? Shame on you! Heh, heh, I'd probably do the same. Have you ever tried to explain a fanzine to a mundane, who usually, more often than not, could care less about it? The response is usually to ask how much money do you make with the stories, and other things along that line of thought. Try telling them that all you get is a contributor's copy and not a penny more, or, if you're an editor, that you're doing it out of love. What you get is a virtual "that's nice", with a condescending smile, and a figurative pat on the head.

Marlene Karkoska: Ben did know that DV could be saved. He also knew that it was Luke's destiny to do it.

Barbara Gardner: Re your answer to Mary Keever, how about locking up the key, and swallowing Luke?

Hey, what am I saying? I'm a Solo person! To re-iterate something I said in a past ish, couldn't Dagobah be to Luke as Brigadoon was to Tommy in the show/movie of the same name? And just have been there when he needed it?

Seems to me that one person, not even in power yet, can cause the downfall of thousands(?). Hey, how many Jedi were there to start with, and how many fell?

How and when did Vader find out that Luke was his son, or did somebody tell him? Who? Why? When?

Maggie Nowakowska: How do you pronounce AIY? Interesting thought about the emperor "acquiring" Anakin's knowledge. Any ideas on how this was done? Was the emperor a Jedi first? Or just a Force sensitive with too much power (Anakin) at his disposal?

Could the Force be selective, that is, those on the lightside can see the future "truly", while those on the darkside cannot? Witness Luke's seeing Han, Leia and Chewie on Bespin, and how true it became and the emperor's sight being so fatally wrong.

Matthew Whitney: I may be pick-nitting as well, but with so many shots being volleyed over the first Death Star, who knows how many rebels Vader did or didn't shoot down. Besides, haven't you ever heard of keeping up appearances?

Why did Vader go to shoot down Luke over the first Death Star? Did he see another Force potential as a threat? If Vader was the emperor's second, why was he taking orders from Tarkin? How would Vader have captured Luke without the carbon freeze? I mean, Luke did avoid it. Is that why Vader so neatly punished him by cutting off the hand? Maybe Leia's "demotion" was for going AWOL to search for Han?

Mary Urhausen: How many times have I read BANTHA TRACKS and thought to myself how I'd heard about their "new" news about this or that, months before? Like you all, I was in it mostly for the membership merchandise.

Bev Clark: What if Bail Organa was married to L&L's mother and she was having an affair with Skywalker? Yeah, hey, I like that! There was no reason to actively protect Leia as there was with Luke. Maybe the Force is inherently stronger in the male child.

Barbara and PJ: Again, I'll say it again, Dagobah = Brigadoon. I can't help thinking about what would have happened had the carbon freeze crypt split in half when it fell from the wall at Jabba's. I could hear Leia's words now: "Sorry 'bout the mess." Hee, hee!

Lin Ward: Maybe Jedi can come back for only a short time after dematerialization. Say, for maybe 5 or 6 years.

Tim Blaes: On the question of Leia's wearing white, white could have been the color that tradition ordered virgins to wear on Alderaan. Notice that Leia wore white just up until Han Solo and Bespin. Hah! How about that? Or mayhaps she let tradition and conformity drop because there was no reason after Alderaan went. What say you?

Carol Peters: Hey, how about the children of the Jedi being held on Kessel. After all, Kessel really hasn't been pinned down as anything more than an idea of something. Ben carried Luke off before the Force-sensitive infant could be tracked down. As for Leia, see my note to Bev Clark.

Vonnie Fleming: Vader an Alderaani? Makes sense as to why he "grabbed" onto Leia's shoulders while the planet was being destroyed. It was to steady himself as well as her. In fact, maybe there was some kind of evidence on Alderaan to put Tarken

away for good. What a novel way to destroy evidence. Off the entire planet!

Michelle Malkin: I totally agree with you as to some BNF's. I once tried to contact one in my area, only to be told never to contact her again--that she doesn't talk to people she hasn't been introduced to first. So much for trying to be friendly. Wonder if we're talking about the same BNF? Write me, or call me. I'm curious.

Slash Fiction

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October 24, 1986

From Pam:

Keever: I walked into LABYRINTH knowing full well it was not a film directed towards adults but toward younger viewers. I also knew it was a movie with a message about taking responsibility and growing up, therefore I enjoyed it because I knew what I was supposed to expect.

I thought Bowie did a splendid job of portraying the Goblin King out to teach Sarah what the consequences were for her irresponsible (substitute "childish") acts and words.

Nowakowska: Hear! Hear! I was beginning to think I was the only one who rebels at paragraphs 73 lines long! If you have to stop reading for one reason or another, there's no break to stop at! You're literally stuck in the middle of a paragraph!

Smithline: Think back one minute if you will. When Luke and Vader clashed in TESB, Vader did not know how long Luke had known Obi-Wan. I doubt Vader knew about Yoda, and his remark about Obi-Wan teaching Luke was an assumption on his part that Obi-Wan had been Luke's Master.

Whitney: I have to agree with you to a certain extent. As long as the characters come within the pre-defined behaviors their creators set up for them, I'm more inclined to stick with the story. And, yes, more inclined to say it is, or is very close to, being successful.

Sometimes, however, I'll find a story where the character has been improved upon and I don't mind that one bit. Usually, those improvements are still within the pre-defined behaviors and are a logical step forward, not a far-flung deviation. I too will not read a K/S story nor will I read a S/K (Solo/Kuryakin) or a S/S (Solo/Skywalker) if offered up. Such stories just do not fit into the behavior of any of the characters.

If someone else wants to read them, fine, it's their prerogative to do so. I just want to be warned in advance such a story is coming up, so I can skip it.

Callahan: Hope you got to see ALIENS in 70mm.

We did, and stayed glued to our seats, unable to look away from the screen for the entire movie. Like your comments about LABYRINTH. Well said.

From Barb:

Margie Abadie: Thank you for your essay on DUNE. I've only read the books once and am not seriously involved in them, but they are good, no matter what level you read them on. I'm fascinated by all the intrigue that goes on. One thing I thought the movie lacked was enough info on the Fremens. We never learned much about them.

As to Luke, I have faith he will be able to chart a responsible path.

Really, I think there is room for all kinds of SF films. Sometimes we can get just as much out of one that seems superficial as one that claims to be serious.

Cheree: My votes for writers of future SW novels go to Ellen Randolph and Mary Jean Holmes.

Lisa Thomas: There are two lines in "RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, the Movie on Record", one that is not heard on the screen, and one that is changed from the original.

Marlene Karkoska: Ha! I know all about your LONG letters!

Let me add my compliments to yours for Mary Jean Holmes, Ellen Randolph, and Carolyn Gollidge. I especially wanted to mention Ellen's "Requiem" in WOOKIEE COMMODE III. Then there's Jenni Hennig and her fabulous "Catalyst!" series. Both got me quite emotionally involved. I LoC most of the zines I read, so I won't go into a lot of detail here.

Barbara Gardner: Yes! I understood what you said about Luke in the Cave. Very interesting.

Please don't remind me about insects, Cheree. I went down to the Gulf shore and got bitten to death by dog flies. There was even one on the bottom of my foot! ((Ed: I can sympathize with that! The one time I went to Galveston, I cut both feet on some sharp rocks on the beach. That night, my feet were too sore to stand the bedsheet on them, but everytime I took it off, the mosquitos descended en masse and ate me alive!))

Kerri Smithline: I think Leia was upset about both Han and Luke. If you are talking about the 35mm print of TESB, it looked like Han was just sort of leaning against the wall, watching Luke thrashing around. Then he moved away and followed Leia out.

Matthew Whitney: I agree with what you said about Lucasfilm. If they really wanted to make life difficult for us, they would do so. Also, I don't think all the blame for poor relations can be put on one side or the other.

Yes, LABYRINTH was wonderful, funny, and exciting. Did anyone catch the fountain in the Goblin City? My favorite of all the creatures was Sir Didymous.

Mary Urhausen: Having read WOOKIEE COMMODE III, I can safely say that I've never been so offended in my entire life!

Bev Clark: The religious Right labels anyone who disagrees with them a "secular humanist". You either think their way or forget it. Regarding the footprints [in Glen Rose, Texas], they maintained for years that those of a man were alongside those of a dinosaur. But that has now been proven wrong, and they have had to withdraw a film and book based on this theory. They then decided that it really wasn't so important, after all. This is known as sour grapes.

Tim Blaes: I saw ALIENS, and it was super! The Aliens were so realistic. I couldn't get over the

size of the queen and the way she was able to detach herself from her egg-laying apparatus. These creatures were obviously quite intelligent, but not in the least interested in peaceful co-existence. Yes, the female characters were great, and I loved Vasques' comeback ("Have you ever been mistaken for a man?" "No, have you?")

Sandi Jones: According to what I read, Lucas didn't finance either HTD or LABYRINTH. I haven't seen the former, but I think LABYRINTH got a bum deal from both the critics (except Lenard Maltin), and the public.

I too want Lucas to do more SW films. But if he did them because he was desperate for money, or because he'd failed at everything else, those would be the wrong reasons. His heart just wouldn't be in it.

(And add Patricia D'Orazio, Karen Ripley, especially "Some Dissembling Required"), and...

Well, that's all this time. Bye, y'all.

Self-Entertainment

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September 24, 1986

I guess there are certain advantages to having the flu. It's a perfect excuse to get to my LoC so I don't end up sending off a short note the day before the deadline. (Though now that I am finishing up this letter, it has suddenly become October 25!)

First of all, congratulations, Cheree, on your promotion. As someone in management, I know that you have a lot more responsibilities. I'm just sorry that you won't have the time to devote to your fannish ventures. ((Ed: Alas, it seems that the past year or so, that's been the story of all our lives! Is it just my imagination, or is every one's career/private life heating up, to the exclusion of fandom?)) One other thing to Ye Olde Editor: I really enjoyed your increased comments in Issue #13. Well, at least, it seemed to me that you made more comments. I for one liked them and would like to hear more from you.

As for your inquiry in Sally Smith's LoC regarding what we (Sally, Jenni and I) did with my Luke doll is a secret that none of us will reveal. And no, his hand is not bionic, but...well, let's just say that I had a whole heck of a lot of fun designing that doll!

On to comments.

A hearty welcome to Ming and Margie. It's nice to see new people appearing in the pages of SE.

Margie Abadie: I enjoyed your comments on my comment on DUNE. I don't know about anyone else, but I am finding a lot in CHAPTERHOUSE: DUNE that I can relate to the trilogy. In one of the comments at the start of a chapter, Herbert quotes the "Misionaria Protectora" that it is not power that corrupts but that it attracts the pathological person. I know some of you may find this old news, but to

me it was a moment of enlightenment. It has given me ideas as to how Palpatine came to power and became addicted to it. It was almost as if his megalomania personality needed the power of the Emperorship to sustain him. That idea gives me lots of ideas for story possibilities.

Carole Regine: I really enjoyed your comments on the gantry duel between Luke and Vader. I especially liked your idea that the duel mirrored a similar one between Ben and Anakin. With the way that Lucas repeats things throughout the trilogy, it would not surprise me if that duel had a similar feel and mood to it. Interesting speculation.

Thanks for your comments on my stories. If I keep getting inspired for stories from SE, I may never get them all written.

Also, count me in as a member of S.M.U.T.T.I. I didn't create Sheera for no reason!

Lisa Thomas: If you find anymore gullible kids who will part with their SW dolls, would you let me know? I've tried bribing my nephew, but my sister knows that I'm really into SW and won't let me negotiate. (Never have liked my sister too much!)

Marlene Karkoska: Gee, Marlene, I can't imagine you having written such a short letter last issue, though I think you will have seen by my last letter that you didn't have the shortest one. I liked your comments on the fan-fiction that you liked. I have read some of those you commented on and some I haven't but plan to locate and read.

Barbara Gardner: I think that Vader may have known that Luke had much greater powers than Luke knew he had, which is why he needed Luke in the carbonite. I wonder if Vader intended to bring Luke directly to the Emperor, or if he may have planned to take Luke somewhere to convince him that they could overthrow Palpatine together.

This brings to mind a question for all Vader fans. What would Vader have been like if he had taken over Palpatine's place? Would he have ruled with Luke or do you think he had plans to turn Luke into a carbon copy of himself?

Mary Keever: Looks like you'll have to stock up on the Raid before you hit Conzineence again.

Maggie N.: I liked your thoughts on calling fan fiction folklore. I think that through writing my own fanfic, I have gained a whole heck of a lot of knowledge and ideas. For one thing, I have become a different type of reader. Rather than reading for the pure pleasure of it, I now find myself asking, "What is the author trying to tell me?" I find that I am not as happy with some of the types of reading material I was reading before. I still like a good Historical Romance (and no, I do not believe that "good" and "Historical Romance" are contradictory terms), but will only read the really good ones.

I also have found myself doing research for my fan fic. As you know, I have been looking into genetics as a basis for a story because I don't know that much about it and want to make the story plausible and not use genetics as a mere plot device.

Most of all, my writing is for self-entertainment. Always having had a very active imagination and fantasy life, I have found that fan fic is a great outlet for a talent I never even knew I had. I think it's like good art of any kind. The author, artist, painter, sculptor has to do it for the love of it and has to be satisfied with it for themselves. I know that when I read over a story that I have written and I am happy and comfortable with it, I'm satisfied. These stories may not be what

others are particularly interested in reading, but I enjoy doing them and that's the main criteria for me. This is not to say that I don't want to improve them. If I didn't, I wouldn't be driving my friends (who are great writers) crazy by constantly sending them copies of my work to read and comment on.

Kerri Smithline: Isn't it possible that Leia was upset that both Han and Luke were out in the Hoth night? Seems to me she could be concerned about both of them. I think Leia's concern would have been just as great for a missing Han as for a missing Luke. Her pain was just doubled because both of them were missing.

What an interesting idea of their being POW camps of Jedi. Perhaps this could fit in with a storyline of Palpatine actually being some kind of Space Vampire and having to have a supply of victims to tap for his strength. There I go again, seeing a storyline in every question that comes up in SE!

In answer to your question about there being no Aliens in the Imperial ranks, I think that it is evidence of elitism on the part of the Empire. Perhaps they think that humans are the "pure blood" of the galaxy and that all others are just inferior and only to be associated with when they can be of some benefit to the Empire. ((Ed: This would give new meaning to Piett's comment about the bounty hunters, "We don't need that scum." Perhaps his disgust was not totally with their profession, but the fact that they were nearly all non-human.))

Matthew Whitney: I'm glad that I gave you something to get on your soapbox last issue. I am also very glad that we were able to discuss the topic in personal correspondence some months ago so that you know that I didn't mean to imply that I thought a child should never be forced into any type of training. I, of course, believe that all children should have to attend school and learn their lessons. What I wanted to say was that I thought that no child in the SW universe should be forced to become a Jedi. I had visions of children being taken away from their parents and placed in training centers where they were told that they would become Jedi and had no choice. We know so little about the Jedi that it is hard to speculate on how their training was arrived at. Were Jedi only born to Jedi, were they random individuals who showed some extraordinary aptitude for Force-ability, or could anyone become a Jedi with the proper training and dedication? No matter what the circumstances for the creation of a Jedi, I don't think that anyone should be forced to be a Jedi and that the choice must be one of free will.

I know I've told you all of this before but I wanted to restate it here so that others would know that I am not in favor of anarchy in our schools.

Mary Urhausen: I was glad to read your comments on fandom, and that you, too, are still most involved in it. In the last issue of SCOUNDREL, Joan Shumsky mentioned that a comment on her letterzine in STARLOG brought 40 inquiries. I think that this would show that there is still an interest in SW, it's just getting the information to those who don't know about organized fandom.

Bev Clark: I very much enjoyed the comments that you made on the issue of Vader sensing Leia's Force-ability and relationship to him. I have always held a very simple belief on these points, and that is that Leia did not know that she possessed Force abilities or was Vader/Anakin's daughter, therefore how could she have "let the cat out of the bag," so to speak. Also, it is only when Luke is using the Force that Vader makes his comment

that Luke is strong in the Force.

I am also beginning to think that there has to be some kind of catalyst to release a Jedi's power. When I was watching ROTJ the other day, I was struck by the look that Luke gives Leia just after he tells her that she is his sister. It almost appears that he is willing her to accept the information. Perhaps he is somehow unlocking the Force-abilities at that point. One other scene that makes me believe more strongly in this point is Leia's first obvious use of the Force. When the second DS is exploded, Leia can "feel" that Luke is okay.

Since I am dealing with this scene, I would like to throw out a question regarding this scene. What does Han realize, that he doesn't verbalize, when Leia tells him that Luke is her brother? It is clear that he thinks for a moment about it and then a realization dawns on him. I suppose I should also put a stipulation in my request for answers that I don't subscribe to the "Han is a Jedi" theory, so I can't accept the reasoning that he knows through the Force.

Barbara and Pam: In regard to your comments on why we like, or for that matter write, the "get" stories, I hope that Carolyn Golledge will take the time for answering that question. I know that she can do it much better than I can, but I thought I would put my two cents in. I think that what is important is the author's reason for putting in the physical injuries. In some stories, it is done so that the writer can write a story about a character being hurt. These I don't care for and if, in reading a story, I sense that that is the author's reason for a story, I will stop reading. On the other hand, if the author is using the injuries for a reason in the story, then I can accept it. In some stories, it is necessary to have Han incapacitated to further the story, in others, it is the whole reason for the story. Oh, well, I hope that someone else decided to address your comment and has done a better job of answering your question than I did. One last thought. One of the first fan stories that I read involved a severe injury to Luke and Han was at his side all of the time. What I came away from the story feeling was good. I liked the way the author portrayed the friendship between the two men and it was because of the intensity of the injuries and suffering that I was able to feel the depth of emotion that one friend felt for the other.

Chris Callahan: Thank you so much for your comments on LABYRINTH. I haven't seen it yet, but hope that it is or will be on tape. I am sure that all of your comments will add to my enjoyment of the movie.

Lin Ward: Your ideas on the development of Force-sensitives was very well thought out and I think is probably what the development was like. I like the idea of a Force-sensitive novice having wild flashes of insight or precognition. I think that Jenni is one who has handled this idea very well in some of her stories.

I like the idea of Ben not being aware of the existence of twins, but this idea sent me to a copy of the script to re-read the scene between Ben and Luke in JEDI. In the part that was cut from the movie, Ben tells Luke that he knew of Luke and Leia's mother's pregnancy. This is also the scene where Luke learns that Owen was Ben's brother. I just wish that this whole scene had been included in the movie. There is so much in it and so many questions answered, but also raised.

Sally Smith: I want you and everyone else to

know that I did not pay Cheree to print my picture twice. I had kind of hoped that no one would notice the fact that I showed up twice. If you'd like, I could always send Cheree that photo I have of you and your roommates doing the can-can at 3 in the morning!

Tim Blaes: My comment to you in issue #12 was in reference to the fact that Cheree saw fit to print all of your comments that you had made in the previous issue. I meant no offense and no one else who has read my comment took it as such. You had complained in one issue that you had been censored or edited, whichever the case was. I simply made the observation that you were not edited for what I thought were very tough words against Cheree.

Carol Peters: Great questions on the offspring of Jedi. I think that there have to be others out in the galaxy who have the ability to become Jedi. Like you say, there must have been children or grandchildren of Jedi, yet with as dastardly as Palpatine appears to be it would seem that he would eliminate all members of Jedi families. Perhaps Luke will spend his days being the catalyst to those Jedi that did escape the Purge.

Vonnie Fleming: G'day, mate. I enjoyed all of your comments on the fact that the Jedi are not "perfect" and that they are after all beings with faults and foibles. I think that that may be something too many fans lose sight of in their criticism of Ben, Vader, Luke and even Yoda. Those who think that a Jedi must be this perfect individual without any flaws are the ones who criticize them so for their failings.

Since you are among the more dedicated Vader fans, I have a question to pose. When Luke is told by Anakin/Vader that he was right about him, and that he should tell his sister, who is Anakin/Vader doing it for? Is it himself, a last conceived act, or is it for Luke and Leia, whom he knows will have difficulty adjusting to the truth of who their father was? Another question on Vader: What do you think his "feelings are clear on" when Palpatine confronts him because he does not sense Luke on Endor, but Vader does? I have always thought that this is one of those early hints that Vader is keeping his true plans secret from all of us.

Michelle Malkin: See my comments to Matthew on the subject of training children. I was kinda sure that you meant what you said in your last letter, just wanted to clarify things.

Well, that's about it for this issue. I just want to say that I missed letters from Jenni, Carolyn and Ronda. I hope you're back in this issue. I also want to say what a pleasure it was to read this last issue of SE. The letters have so many marvelous points and ideas that they keep me thinking for a long time after I put the zine down. They also pose a lot of questions that I would love to answer in stories. Now, if fandom will just stick around long enough for this procrastinator to get all of her stories written.

Keep up the good work, Cheree. With the demise of SCOUNDREL, I would hate to imagine life without at least one SW letterzine.

Til next time, go with the Force.



Lisa Thomas
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October 31, 1986

I'm cutting it extremely close this time, so I only have time for a few comments on SE#13.

First off, I must say that I think the SW Lending Library is a fabulous idea! I'm sure there are others out there like me who didn't even know about zines for the first few years of SW mania, and we missed many of the early SW zines. I find it a little hard to accept the fact that George would agree to it, but stranger things have happened.

Ming Wathne: I didn't forget about you! I just couldn't find your address! Now that I have it here in print, I'll be getting back to you soon (hopefully I already have by the time you read this).

Lin Ward: The new address for International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights is: IB0JK, PO Box 29841, San Antonio, TX 78229. I have no idea how much membership fees are now because mine expired a couple of months ago and I haven't renewed yet.

Matthew Whitney: Would you consider the novel for SW: A NEW HOPE to be canon since it was written by George Lucas who created the SW saga in the first place? I agree that the films are the main canon, but since George wrote the first novel, I consider that to be canon, too. ((Ed: Actually, it was written by Alan Dean Foster and GL just put his name on the book.))

Barbara Gardner: Okay, your letter is before mine and longer than mine this time, so you can tell your friend to cool it with the obscene phone calls! (Whoever could that heavy breathing, raspy voiced man be?)

In case anybody missed it, I've got to tell everybody about the supposed "commercial" I heard on Hit Music USA a few weeks ago: It starts out with Luke and Vader duelling, and there is some ominous sounding SW track playing in the background (I can't remember which one, though).

Vader: Luke, join me and together we can rule the galaxy as father and son!

Luke: No way, Vader!

Vader: Do you think it's easy ruling an empire with clogged nasal passages?

Luke: Is that what's been bugging you? Here, try this.

Vader: What's this? Another of Obi-Wan's tricks?

Luke: No, Vader. It's new Nasaltine Spray--opens breathing passages in just minutes.

Vader: Hmmm...(sprays a couple of times then inhales)...ahhh...

Announcer: Nasaltine Mist and Nasaltine Spray restores normal breathing for up to 12 hours. (switch to a more pleasant SW track--"Han and the Princess" theme, I think)

Vader: Ahhh...I feel...better.

Luke: Vader? Darth?! Is that you?!

Vader: I can breathe, Luke!

Luke: Wow! I didn't recognize you without the suit and the helmet! You look great, guy!

Vader: What do ya say, Luke? You and me--together. Let's go to a ball game, cruise some babes, maybe pick up a princess or two?

I still crack up when I listen to it!

Well, unfortunately, this is all I have time to say for now. Sorry this isn't typed, Cheree, but

college has my typewriter overworked the way it is! I just discovered last week that my English professor writes movie reviews for the city paper, and he is the one who gave ROTJ a bad review in 1983. I've still got the review somewhere, so I'll have to dig it out and we'll discuss it.

Until next time--follow the Force!

Spielberg

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October 29, 1986

Here's my entry for last LoC of No. 14 (or 1st of 15 if I'm truly unlucky with the PO!).

Thank you for providing the Fan Q results, and hearty congratulations to the winners. Wish I could have gotten to the con. Sigh.

Carole Regine: Your suggestion of a Vader/Kenobi parallel is very interesting. It's not easy to see from another's point of view, especially when the other is on the opposite side from you (I side with Kenobi, for example, and have to be really prodded to see Vader as anything other than a total, unrelieved baddy). On the other hand, I should remember Kenobi's comment about truths and point of view sometimes. Thanks, Carole.

Maggie Nowakowska: I'm sure I remember the "missing" sequences you cite, most likely from the 70mm print I saw most often during the 1st year. I do remember at some point wondering what had happened in the tractor beam scene--it was definitely missing something in later viewings.

I like your comment about fannish writing being self-entertainment and rare these days--too right! So much is no longer self-generated that could be, and might be worth more if it were.

Apologies to you re the long paragraphs in my last letter! That's a good point, and I'll try to keep it in mind. In fact, looking at my letter, I could find more than a couple of places that could have been made into separate paragraphs.

Your comments on Spielberg helped crystallize part of my dislike for the little of his work that I've seen. With ET I really resented being manipulated a la Disney (whom I learned very early to dislike as a child, with few exceptions). And one of the common points in both CLOSE ENCOUNTERS and ET that riled me was the total evil of the government--the guy in the suit with NASA insignia in ET was totally unnecessary and vicious, I thought. And while I did sympathize with the "heroes", I was irritated by the anti-government attitude (esp. in ET, tho.). Would Spielberg prefer to see no government at all except whatever vigilante groups formed to defend their own (narrow) interests? Actually, now that I think about it, he's probably similar in thinking to L. Neil Smith, whose libertarian novels have some fun puns but are so totally annoying that I gave up after a couple of them.

Bev Clark: I think the fundamentalists who

object to C. S. Lewis may have in mind the unfallen race in (I think) OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET--after all, Christ is the ALL, and a race that is unfallen, i.e., doesn't need Christ and redemption, is a blasphemous concept. Or it could simply be that he posits intelligent races, unfallen or not, on other planets in stories that are openly religious. The Bible doesn't mention such possibilities, therefore they're impossible and shouldn't be used in religious literature, especially literature that children and teens might read. Or it could be Aslan in Narnia--now THERE'S a blasphemous concept: the Savior as animal! And in a fantasy involving magic, no less! Horrors! And this in a series aimed at a very youthful audience! My personal feeling was that in the last book or so, he laid on the religion with a very large trowel, but then I read it as an adult. As a child I might have enjoyed the series a lot more and actively enjoyed the allegory (as a child I was a very faithful practicing Catholic, too; my literary taste AND my religious/philosophical thinking have changed drastically since then!).

Bev, are you serious--a book comparing SW to the Bible?! AAARRGHHH!!!

Lin Ward: I like your idea of "Fanfare for the Common Man" for Jedi initiations--as the procession for the formal ceremony, perhaps? Lovely!

Sally Smith: I like your idea that when you're over the hill you pick up speed! Must remember that next time my brother-in-law kids me about my age (he's getting close to 40 himself, hee-hee! I think it's all coverup for anxiety on his part!). By the way, just when ARE you "over the hill"? I'm going to be "the answer" in November, and I sure as hell don't think I'm over it! Picking up speed, maybe...

Tim Blaes: The Whelan cover you described is for Samuel Delaney's DISTANT STARS (Bantam, 1981), a collection of stories, each illustrated by a different artist. Think Whelan's contribution is the cover alone, but it is lovely (well, most of his work is, let's face it! Even when he's getting sexist, as he so often does). And the other title is NOR CRYSTAL TEARS, not MORE. As for why a lot of women object to many covers--I don't have time (and neither does Cheree!) to go into it, but find a patient female friend who objects to them and ask her to explain. I say patient, because it's the kind of thing that can get the explainer exasperated very quickly.

The SKYRIDER covers weren't objectionable in that way, they were just very badly drawn. And not just the SR covers. There seems to be an epidemic of bad cover art. The covers that come to mind (other than SR) immediately are fantasy, as it happens, but there are some less than well-done SF covers out there too. And now Carl Lundgren, one of the few really good AND prolific artists is getting out of the SF business (think it was in SF CHRONICLE I read that; might have been LOCUS). Kelly Freas and Richard Powers, and the Dillons, hardly ever appear any more on paperbacks. Sure, new talent keeps coming along and needs exposure, but why let the junk through in the process?!

Really, Tim--red bra and purple garter belt?? Surely Leia has better color and fashion sense than THAT! Both red or both purple, at least...

Back to Bev: One problem I have with the secular humanist business is the idea that it's a religion. Obviously no one who calls it that has even heard of the Humanist Manifesto, never mind read it. Part of the whole idea is that humanism is NOT a religion in itself. The recent Tennessee text

decision is terrifying. We can all hope it's overturned on appeal. In the meantime, joining the ACLU and People for the American Way are ways we can stand up for our freedoms. Those organizations are supporting the school boards against the bigots whose idea of religious freedom is to force others to meet their particular narrow standards.

In another case (Alabama, I believe), one of the charges is that textbooks in the schools are totally ignoring the place of religion in American history (the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving are taught with no mention of the very important religious aspect of their story, for example). This is very poor history writing and teaching, and unfortunately gives the fundamentalists a genuine legitimate issue to cloud their actual agenda. A real possibility is that this sort of angle will help lead the court to a decision in favor of the fundamentalists, and there's yet another costly (in more ways than one!) fight to continue through the higher courts. Again, ACLU and PAW are on our side. I'm a member of both, by the way (practically a charter member of PAW, in fact), so I'm a bit biased. But I do believe that these organizations are vital to the defense of freedoms we've taken for granted for years, freedoms that are now seriously endangered and will be in danger for a long time to come, thanks to Raygun's support of attitudes that belong in the Dark Ages. Ok, enough--this is supposed to be a media letter-zine, not current events. But--as sf fans have known for years, current events often have a very direct application to us as sf people, as well as in our capacity as citizens.

ALIENS is great!!! If you haven't seen it, GO if it's still around! Scared the daylights out of me the 1st time (70mm, of course--I shook for about an hour after!) but great! I do wish they'd left in the lines about Ripley's daughter--it would have made her more real than she was already, and added depth to her relationship with Newt. I read about the cut lines in a review before I saw the film, so saw her and Newt in that light. It did add a lot to the characterization. And the bit IS in the novelization, which stays pretty close to what appears on screen otherwise (except it does leave out "bitch" in "Get away..."--maybe Weaver added that? I loved it!

Worldcon on LV-426 in '88!



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November 11, 1986

Hi! Boy, talk about under-the-wire! Thanks. Also, thanks for the listing of the Fan Q Awards. It's nice to see people whose work one has appreciated publicly recognized. Too bad about the STAR TREK non-awards, tho. Thanks, too, for the newspaper clippings--really appreciated them.

Hello, all. Of late, I'd been noticing my enthusiasm for SW waning and I was really feeling the void. While looking for something to listen to the other day, I ran across my SW album, to which I'd not listened for many moons. Lo and behold, from the opening fanfare, I found my flagging interest revived and now I'm all gung-ho again and glad of it! I hear a lot about the loss of interest in SW fandom and I sure hope most of you guys out there are still going strong. We can keep it going as we choose thru our zines, fan and letter, and just plain keeping in touch with one another. I feel like I know a lot of you simply thru your stories and letters, and always enjoy and appreciate same.

On to the letters.

Ming W.: How terrific to see a letter from Santa Barbara! I spent 6 years there and, even after being away for 20+ years, I still consider it my home and still suffer bouts of homesickness. We went back on vacation a few year ago--just as beautiful as I remembered. A truly lovely and gracious city. Do they still have the Fiesta in August? I know, I know--this is a Star Wars zine. Sorry, folks.

Carole Regine: Re your comments on Vader's thoughts, motives, etc., during the EMPIRE sabre duel--very well put. I feel the same way. I believe his parental feelings were trying to struggle to the surface. He may have been confused by his conflicting motives and reacting with anger when he separated Luke from his hand. Lots of us get angry when we don't really understand or don't like what we are feeling. I also pitied Vader when Luke totally (and rightly) rejected him. To offer to share what's most important to you and have it thrown back at you with disgust--poor fella! As regards S.M.U.T.T.I., if membership is limited to "invitation only", please invite me! As far as the first trilogy goes, I'd rather have novels than nothing, but I want them with Lucas' okay and his ideas, not someone else's--the "real" story, so to speak. Re possible authors from the fan world, those Cheree mentioned are great, but let's not forget Ellen Randolph!

Lisa Thomas: Talk about good deals! I also have a kid who lives down the street. His folks had a garage sale and I got the small Millennium Falcon with movable parts for 50¢ and several of the small figures for 25¢ each. Boy, was I excited! Also got several unopened jigsaw puzzles at the Goodwill for 25¢ each. I also wondered if Luke's seeing Vader's face under the helmet at the tree-cave in TESB was a message meaning "I am my own worst enemy", but there are so many ways this scene can be interpreted in light of subsequent events, that I really don't know which, if any, is the correct one. To each his own theory, I say.

Mary Keever: I saw LABYRINTH and enjoyed it very much, though I heard several people say it was a kiddie show. I managed to locate a few more mature subtleties--hey, anything with D. Bowie as the

Goblin King can't be strictly for the little ones, now can it? Hey--I really enjoyed meeting you at Conzineence.

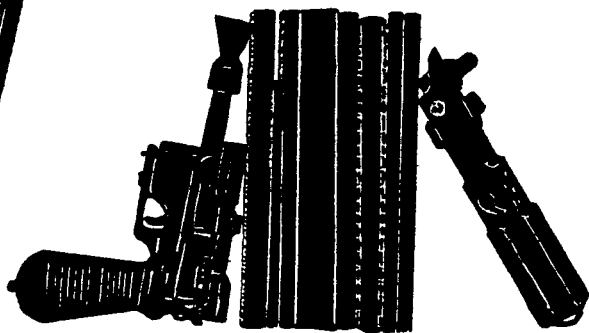
Kerri Smithline: I think Leia, at that time, was upset because they both were out in the blizzard. The Emperor a "force vampire"--I love the idea! Feeding from Vader day by day, year after relentless year, just enough to keep him (Vader) weaker than the Emperor, but never enough at one time to completely drain DV of life. And Vader knowing it all the time, powerless to stop it, until Luke comes along in all his untapped Power. New blood, so to speak? Help to finally overthrow the old leech--and Luke rejects him utterly. Yecch--what a shivery notion! For no good reason at all, I don't think Vader or the Emperor knew about Yoda--or, if they once did, assumed him dead with the rest. Hey, there's a story idea for someone--Vader tracking down Yoda and how he escaped with the kid(s).

Mary U.: Hi! I've read some of your stuff. I sincerely hope you never lose your inspiration--I'd hate to think you weren't writing anymore. Got your letter, by the way. You should have my reply before now, and I repeat--how 'bout a Luke story?

In closing, two questions: (1) Where is "And He Is Us?" by Carol Hines-Stroede located, ((Ed: It is in GUARDIAN 7.)) and (2) does anyone out there know why Oola's dance music in Jabba's throne room was replaced on the album by "Lapti Nek"?

Happy trails, folks, and peace...





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FLIP OF A COIN, the fanzine featuring selections based on all characters portrayed by Harrison Ford throughout his career, is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, cartoons, art, etc., for future issues. Issue #8 is due February, 1986. Back issues #2, #4/5, #6 and #7 still available in limited supply; however, #1 and #3 are now out of print. Featured selections by Jacqueline Taero, Wanda Lybarger, Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Barbara Anderson, Sherry Magee, Cypher, T. S. Weddell, Lynda Ruth Pfonner, Pat Nussman, Martynn, Dani, and many, many more! SASE for information on writing guidelines as well as orders to FLIP OF A COIN, c/o Paula True-love and Jenny McAdams, Editors, 502 McKeithan St., Apt. 4A, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

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WELL OF THE SOULS #5. "Tinseltown" by Roberta Rogow. Indy, Willie and Shorty return to America and fall in with evil companions--like William Randolph Hearst, Katharine Hepburn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, David Niven, Louis B. Mayer...not to mention the Chinese thugs who are out to get Indy and Shorty in revenge for Lao Che's son's death...and a natural disaster or two. You get the idea! "Anything Goes" by Jeannie Webster. In 1937, Indy and Marion decide to visit a nightclub. When Indy recognizes the blonde singer, things get...uh...interesting between Willie and Marion! "Raiders of the Lost Fridge" by Ros Wheadon. A satirical script. The Nazis have stolen Indy's refrigerator, and he's the only one who can save the world from being flooded with frozen sauerkraut--but he should've read the script first, or at least avoided Elstree! "As Time Goes By, The Sequel" by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. It's the 1980's, and Indiana Jones' memoirs have hit the best-seller list. A couple of guys named George and Steven think the book would make a great movie--but they'll have to deal with Indy's skepticism, Marion's business acumen, and the grandkids' requests to get the rights. "What I Did on My Summer Vacation, Part 2" by Sally Smith and the WOTS crew. Just what was going on with all those weirdos at the L.A. Worldcon? AND MORE! Final price is \$7.00 first class. Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

Coming Soon

ALL THAT JAZZ--the first and possibly only all A-Team zine around! #1--Fiction so far by Garrett, Smithline, Habel. Art so far by Larimer. Submissions now being sought and accepted. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CATALYST! COLLECTED, VOL II is in production and will be making its appearance in early fall of 1987. It will contain the "Seeds of Destruction" trilogy, with suitable re-writes and new illustrations, plus some material never seen anywhere before and a helluva lot of vignettes. If you wish to reserve, \$5 and SASE will do it for this limited-edition collected. Galactic Winds Press and Graphics, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

CHOICE PARTS--a new Harrison Ford zine, just a bit more on the adult side. Featuring "Chance Encounter" by Kate Birkel. Tommy Lillard was minding his own business when the strangest looking thing he'd ever seen fell out of the sky--with a beautiful, sharp-tongued princess as its passenger. "The One That Got Away" by Cypher. Han had a lead on the most fabulous jewels in the galaxy. Now, all he had to do was dive to the bottom of an ocean-covered planet, contact the local piscine inhabitants and convince them to turn over their treasure to him. "Remembrance" by Carolyn Gollledge. Han and Leia had returned to Corell to find a sacred icon that had belonged to Han's family, shortly before the family holding was destroyed by Imperial troops. Without it, Han could never proclaim his true identity. "Pastorate" by Elizabeth Wilson. Kenny Boyd was haunted by his experiences in Vietnam, and a particular nightmare spilled over to engulf his fiancée. Other material includes fiction by Ann Wortham, Marci Erwin, and Jeannie Webster, plus poetry by Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Pat Nussman, Jacqueline Taero, Patricia D'Orazio, Sarah Macht-Dewitt and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Jim Markle and Barbara Frances-Simon, plus more. Due out Winter, 1986. \$5.00 and a SASE to reserve. Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

ECLIPSE: A novella in the "Catalyst!" universe. What happens when a Jedi Healer loses the final battle against death? What could force the ultimate betrayal? What could stage the defeat of the Grand Master of the New Order of Jedi Knights? What could drive Alliance and Jedi apart--then force them back together in a tumult of despair? And what could drive a young Jedi girl to force open the very barriers of Time itself to retrieve what she has irrevocably lost? \$5 and SASE will insure your answers to all questions, and reserve your copy of this denouement to a very different SW Alternate. A special limited-run edition. Galactic Winds Press and Graphics, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

FAR REALMS #9 will feature work by Carolyn Gollledge, Linda Knights, Patricia D'Orazio, Jeanine Hennig, Chris Jeffords, and more! Artists still being lined up, but you'll definitely see the normal great stuff. \$5 and SASE to reserve your copy, due out as always for MediaWest*Con this upcoming year. Galactic Winds Press and Graphics, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

FROM THE HART. Come march with the Mulligan Guards in this tribute to Mark Hamill's portrayal of Tony Hart in the charming Broadway musical, HARRIGAN 'N HART. Deadline for submissions: Dec. 31st. For more information, SASE to DMC Press c/o Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

GUARDIAN 8 is in need of manuscripts looking for a

good home. ST, SW, UNCLE welcome. Please send them to Linda Deneroff; 1800 Ocean Parkway; Brooklyn, NY 11223.

JUST A COUPLA JOKERS. The first all SIMON & SIMON zine (that we know of!) is looking for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art, as well as interested parties in such a zine. Aiming for a Christmas '85 printing, we already have work by Jeffords, Carr and Hall with promises for more. Submissions and SASE's (no money at this time, please!) to Jumeau Press, 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

JUST DESERTS #2 already contains two long stories by Linda Knights, stories by Carr, Carr & Wortham, Horvath, art by Winters and more. \$5.00 & legal-size SASE to reserve. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

KHAEL--a Han Solo-oriented SW zine, now soliciting stories. Must have Han as a main character. Stories so far include "Unicorn Chased" by Jean L. Stevenson, a sequel to "Unicorn's Maiden"; "Wild Card" by Patricia D'Orazio, a Sybelle and Han Solo story; "Fair Trade" by Kate Birkel, a post-ANH story; a Han Solo and Anakin Skywalker story by Lynn Farr; and a portfolio of incidental art by Wanda Lybarger. SASE to Khaelian Press, c/o Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

LAST STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD is a BLAKE'S 7 5th season in five parts. All five parts are complete and contained within this volume. Written by Ann Wortham & Leah Rosenthal (but it's not BIZARRO 7, folks) with art by Dani and Rosenthal. Send a legal-size SASE to reserve a copy. Print run will be based on reservations received. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

LATE NIGHT #2--due June, 1986, includes SSF, Ironside, GAH, SW, Steele, ST. We still need humorist and artists. Help!! SASE Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

LATE NIGHT #3--accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, humor, art, filk, etc. beginning February 1st. Beginners welcome (we're tough but we're fair)! All submissions and questions, please SASE Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

LEGACY FOR A HIGHWAYMAN--a pre-ANH novel of love and loss by Juanita Salicrup. SASE to Khaelian Press, c/o Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

LEGENDS OF LIGHT. As of February 1985 there will not be a third issue of LoL such as issues one and two. The major deterrents are increased job demands and limited financial resources for the editors. However, we are planning to publish the sequel to Susan Voll's "Forerunner" (LoL #1) in Spring 1986. Included with this mini-issue will be additional contributions, including short stories, poems, filks, artwork, LoC's for issue #2 and filler material. A firm limit will be imposed on the number of pages in this third issue. Contributions will not be accepted until September 1, 1985. Please watch for future notices in the ad sections of zine for details. Thanks to everyone for their support of LoL! Rebecca Walker & Susan Voll, editors.

NOT JUST LUKE. A zine still in its infancy, just waiting to grow up. Now reviewing submissions of all kinds. NJL is a playground for Mark Hamill fans with pen in hand. Mark has portrayed many a character, NOT JUST LUKE! Send submissions or info SASE to: DMC Press c/o SASE Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #3. Now accepting submissions for fiction, poetry, art, films, and cartoon. Deadline for submissions is October 31. For submission guidelines, send SASE to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 75061. Help us make this issue the best yet.

ONCE UPON A BLUE MOON--a proposed "no-frills" MOON-LIGHTING letterzine is urgently soliciting letters of comment! Are there any fans out there? For final pub date and price, please SASE. Pat Nussman, 2J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

ONE FROM THE HEART--A proposed one-shot zine dealing with all the characters Mark Hamill has portrayed on television, film and stage. We are currently seeking all types of submissions (open letters, films, short stories, long stories, artwork). Ann Harvers and Lee Shenker, Co-Editors. Naughty Girls Press, 411-84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.

PERFECT FUSION, VOL. I, has been delayed but is still in the works! The first volume of this adult zine published by a former editor of Organia will contain 75% SW's and 25% SF material. Contributors include: Ablove, Alman, Blaes, Cargill, Denton, Drake, Faraci, Fetter, Hedge, Hennig, Kaplowitz, Knights, Lorenstein, Mathai, Malkin, Osman, Stasulis, Swan, Tennison and many others. Age statement required. Beverly Lorenstein, 432 Fanshawe St. #9, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

PRISMS--a new zine that aspires to be the "Encyclopedia of SW fan universes", is forthcoming soon. Keep your eyes on this space next time! Galactic Winds Press, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

QUARTERSTAFF, a proposed quarterly letterzine for fans of HTV/Goldcrest's ROBIN HOOD, is currently seeking LoCs, filler art and articles. SASE for details and for final price notification. Mary A. Schmidt, N8011 WI Hwy 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916.

SHADOW DANCE II. Twice the size of #1. Fiction by: Smithline, Hunter, Wortham, Wardwell, Garret. Poetry by Mary Robertson, including special memorial poem to Jon-Eric Hexum. Games by Vandiver and Erwin. Art by: Brinkmeir, Zan, Dunster. Jon-Eric Hexum cover by J. R. Dunster. Approximately 100 pages. Reserve your copy now! Only 20 more reservations needed to go to press. Final price: \$12.00 USA, \$15.00 overseas. Please make your check payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, c/o K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. #1 still available for \$7.50.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3 will make its appearance early in 1987. Universes include B7, IJ, AT, AW, S&S, MV and others. Print run based on reservations. \$5.00 and legal-size SASE to reserve a copy. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN will be available the end of October.

Stories by Carr, Hoffman, Hintze, Matthews, Paulson, Rosenthal & Wortham, Taero, Tennison and much more. Art by Dani, Molnar, Rosenthal, Willis and others. Over 300 pages, reduced. \$18.00, postage included. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

TARDIS TIMES: Dr. Who zine. This zine is 90% complete. The only thing lacking is the money to print. The stories concentrate mainly on the Baker Dr. (Tom), but we are still accepting contributions, preferably shorts, poems, art work, articles, featuring all 6 Drs. \$3 deposit for reservation. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE ECLECTIC *--a new multi-media zine is now open for submissions. All fandoms welcome. There are no prejudices as far as subject, but there are minimal literary standards that will be upheld. THE ECLECTIC * is intended eventually to be a quarterly. \$3 for reservation. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON CASEBOOK is a thematic one-shot seeking contris; SASE for guidelines. BRIGHT-STAR IN GLORY, the only mainline Brightstar Universe novel will take the Lucas/Brightstar cast through their analog of ROTJ; written by Christine Jeffords, planned for May '85 debut, and now accepting SASEs. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

THE PRINCESS TAPES #2: Now in production, TP2 is a continuation of the SW saga as seen from the Princess' point of view. It consists of a collection of shorts, poems, stories, articles, and especially art work, and is based on the original Princess Tapes poem and song cycle, excerpt of which are now on view in the Pan-Galactic Museum, 4th Quadrant, Hub Sector. Contributions welcome. \$3 for deposit. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOLFHAWKE TAPESTRIES. Based on the legendary events portrayed in the medieval fantasy LADYHAWKE. Nearly ready with our premiere issue. SASE for info. Wolfhawke Press, Ltd., c/o Sandy Williams, 3911 N. Hall St., Apt. A, Dallas, TX 75219.

TIME TAVERN. Tentative title. The TIME TAVERN is a place of enlightened and exotic entertainment established between time and space where anybody can show up and usually does. The ultimate in cross-universe zines. Now open for submissions. Send SASE for guidelines. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

VERTIGO (formerly THING) is in need of contributions for its first issue (a really unique situation, huh?). We accept just about all media, and prefer stories with an off-the-wall slant. Real psychotic stuff. Cross-universe stories, What-If stories, parodies, humor, Twilight Zone-type twist endings, unusual angles, that sort of thing. We also need articles, reviews of just about any sort, and artists. We will consider stories of just about any length but we're not inclined to do continued pieces. VERTIGO will be about 200 pages, unreduced, with an estimated price of \$5.00 plus postage, or less as we are aiming at the cheapest zine in town. Send contributions to: VERTIGO, Susan Kimzey, PO

Box 875, Greer, SC 29651. Remember, if Weird has a name, it must be VERTIGO!

THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE #4!! Back by popular complaint: The zine with something to offend absolutely everyone marches on! Scheduled for debut at MediaWest Con 7 in May, 1987. Deadline for submissions: January 1, 1987. For submission guidelines and general encouragement, SASE Samia Martz, 701 West Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093. We would like to showcase "post-ROTJ" fiction in this issue--but we are always receptive to anything good and outrageous, so write us!

Other Worlds

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KRYSTARION PRESS: Help an editor complete her mailing lists. If anyone plans on purchasing THE PRINCESS TAPES and already possessed a copy of TPT: THE PROLOGUE, when sending in the order indicate which number of THE PROLOGUE you have. This will be greatly appreciated with mucho thanks by the editor of both the above zines. Also that will allow said editor to match the numbers of both zines for each fan who orders them. Thanks. J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

ANNUALS, ZINES AND BOOKS FOR SALE. Mostly British media-oriented but also some STAR TREK, STAR WARS, multi-media, etc. British annuals related to DR. WHO, STAR TREK, BLAKE'S 7, etc. Paperbacks related to 87, PROFESSIONALS, etc. Much more. If I don't have it, ask. I go to England a lot and might be able to get it for you. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

ARTISTS needed for ALL THAT JAZZ, the all-A-Team zine. Please send samples of work to K. L. Smithline, Black Unicorn Press, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Subjects include Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Star Wars, A-Team, "V". Photo, general and novelty buttons as well. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

DUE TO A SEVERE LACK OF MATERIAL, publication of my letterzine, "Perspective", will be suspended indefinitely. Promises are just not enough and it's a shame that something as valuable to fandom as a letterzine must be shelved due to lack of contributions. Anyone interested in keeping "Perspective" afloat, please send your letters, articles, poetry, ads, fanzine reviews (on any fannish subject) to Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219. Issue #2 still available for \$2.00.

FOR SALE--extensive SW collection of long time SW fan. Some zines, many pre-TESB toys, magazines and SW and Harrison Ford photos. Legal sized, double stamped SASE for available lists to: Lisa Adolf, 2804 Kitsap Way, Suite 203, Bremerton, WA 98312.

HELP! I need a VHS copy of THE INNOCENTS, a movie starring Deborah Kerr made from the novel, THE TURN OF THE SCREW. I will provide cassette and postage. Please help me to placate a husband who is threat-

ening to dismantle my VCR if I don't find him a copy. Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

HF COLLECTORS--I need your help! I am looking for early, obscure TV and movie roles by Harrison, in particular THE TRIAL OF LT. WILLIAM CALLEY, plus any TV shows he guest-starred in. VHS format. Maybe I have something you're looking for. Will gladly trade. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

I AM OFFERING fair, honest zine reviews in return for free or postage-only copies. Will accept defective copies and will provide copy of review before publication. Am also offering experienced, complete proofreading in return for contrib copy. Sandra Necchi, 4835 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

IS THERE ANYONE INTERESTED in writing for a zine based on the cartoon show "Dungeons and Dragons"? Please send your stories and illos to Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. Contributions only at this time. Thanks.

MIAMI VICE Stationery for sale. Original art by Suzy Sansom. 25 sheets in assorted colors only \$5 post paid. Also available: Indiana Jones, SW. Please SASE for flyer. Available from Suzy Sansom, 376 Granada Dr., So. San Francisco, CA 94080.

SALE--includes zines (SW and ST), posters, Japanese photo magazines, comics, Remington Steele photos, artwork, lobby card sets, and more other miscellaneous junkie than you can shake a lightsaber at! For list, SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$15. All episodes, all characters. Individually--\$1.00 each, minimum 5 slides. SASE Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP? With the editors' permission, we offer photocopies of the following zines: ARCHAEOLOGY 101, EMPIRE REVIEW, KESSEL RUN, CROSSED SABERS, FACETS, MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE, DOCKING BAY, FAR REALMS, TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 and #2. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

WANTED: Copies of "Falcon's Flight" #2, 4, 5 & 6. Willing to pay a reasonable amount for them. I hope someone can help me in SW zine world. Want to complete my set. Fran Husejinovic, 1722 Decatur St., Ridgewood, NY 11385.

WANTED: Some highly organized person to write episode guides composed of Air Dates, Titles, and brief Synopses of any current TV program of fan interest for those of us videophiles who have been woefully unorganized. Examples: A-Team, Airwolf, Doctor Who, Knight Rider, Remington Steele, et al. In case of duplication, only most complete listings will be printed. Partial lists accepted. PERSPECTIVE, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

WANTED: Artists for ALL THAT JAZZ, the all A-Team zine. Please send examples of your work along with SASE to: ALL THAT JAZZ, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

ZINE SALE: Many out of print. Misc. SW stuff for sale. SASE for list. Thekla Kurth, 851 N. Pheasantbrook Cir., Centerville, UT 84014.

ZINE SALE--SW & ST, many out of print zines: SKYWALKER, FAR REALMS, KESSEL RUN. SASE for list. Lou Ann Patrie, 2718 LaFeuille Cir., Apt. 5, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

ZINE SALE--Over 50 zines! Mostly SW and Raiders--some media. All zines are originals, none are photocopies. All are in excellent to mint condition with front and back covers intact. First come, first served. Prompt service. SASE for price, complete listing of zines and availability. Zines include: CIRCLE OF LIGHT, DOCKING BAY, FACETS, FAR REALMS, FLIP OF A COIN, KESSEL RUN, OUTLANDS CHRONICLES, SHADOWSTAR, VISIONS and many more. Reason for selling--too many zines, too little room. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431.

ZINE SALE: Classic out-of-print SW including some TWIN SUNS, SKYWALKER, KESSEL RUN and a bit of vintage ST. SASE for list. Terri Black, 169 S. St. John #199, Pasadena, CA 91129.

ZINE SALE: Over 50 fanzines, mostly SW, including SKYWALKER #1, KESSEL RUN, TWIN SUNS, and many others no longer in print. All zines are in excellent to mint condition. SASE for complete price list to K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

ZINE SALE: I am having a zine sale of over 100 SW and ST zines--many are out of print. Reasonable prices. Please send SASE to Sheryl Herrly, 2330 N. Evergreen, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. Also Dirk Benedict from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Jon-Eric Hexum from Voyagers, Cover-up (several sets). SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

1987 STAR WARS CALENDAR featuring artwork by some of fandom's best artists. Cargill, Dani, Mark Fisher, Melea Fisher, Jenni, Kowalski, Lybarger, Markle, Ronee, Sandi. \$7.00 ppd. Sandi Jones, 629 Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nola Caulfield
1880 Parkside Drive #18
Concord, CA 94519

Samia Martz
701 West Hale Lake Road
Warrensburg, MO 64093

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

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